

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 2555.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1876.

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TALPOUR, ELY, M.A., Secretary to the Council. October, 1876.

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From the Recollections of Sophie Marie, Countess von Voss. Translated by Emily and Agnes Stephenson. 2 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

THERE could scarcely be a more trivial book than this, and it may be doubted whether even the exceptional position of the Countess Voss in the very midst of a society of historical importance gives any real value to her meagre jotting. But the faint titillation of pleasure which a reader experiences when a well-known historical character is introduced to him in the dress of every-day life is felt oftener in reading this book than in reading almost any book of the kind; and there is something so surprising in the length of time over which this insignificant diary extends, that the book becomes noticeable; almost every one will take it up with curiosity, even though the liveliest curiosity will soon be satiated by it, and therefore it is not surprising that it should have been very promptly translated.

To give a notion of the lapse of time which the book covers, it may be mentioned that the Countess's father was wounded at Malplaquet, and that the Countess herself outlived by a year the battle of Leipzig, though the interval between those battles is 104 years. But the Countess's own experience of some sort of public life was also immensely long. It is described in the title as covering sixty-nine years; but the Countess could remember Mr. Carlyle's *Bear*, Frederic William the First, who died in 1740,—that is, seventy-four years before her own life ended. The first incident in her public life is recorded in the *Margravine of Baireuth's Memoirs* as follows:—

"The young Pannewitz was as beautiful as an angel, but as resolute as she was fascinating; and when once the king met her on a staircase that led to the queen's apartments, where she could not avoid him, and ventured to try to kiss her, she defended herself against him with such a hearty box of the ears that those who stood at the bottom of the stairs could have no doubt of her good success."

After this *début*, the lady went through the whole of the long reign of Frederic the Great, survived his successor, Frederic William the Second, lived through the early and deceptively prosperous days of Frederic Wil-

liam the Third, witnessed the downfall of Jena and the peace of Tilsit, saw Prussia sink lower still, closed the eyes of Queen Louise, saw the Russian expedition pass through the country, taking possession of it in a way that showed that the fate of Prussia was involved in that of Russia, saw the tide turn, saw the *levée en masse* of Prussia and the creation of the Landwehr, received the news of Dennewitz, Katsbach, Leipzig, Craonne; and when she left the world, could feel that the second great trial of Prussia was over, her second great enemy—more formidable than Maria Theresa—crushed, and a new period of prosperity commenced. She saw, in fact, the whole rise of Prussia to the position of a great Power, and during most of the time she was in the closest intercourse with the men who could have best explained to her all that was going on. Had she chosen to observe attentively all that passed before her, to reflect upon it, and write a careful history, her book might have been as interesting as Saint-Simon's.

But the Countess is the antipodes of Saint-Simon. She observes nothing, and narrates nothing. If we were to call her reflections commonplace, we should convey too favourable an impression of them. Properly speaking, she makes no reflections, for we cannot call the mere exclamations, whether of joy or sorrow, with which she accompanies her items of news by so dignified a name. In like manner, she tells us nothing of the characters that are thrown in her way: we learn sometimes that they are agreeable or otherwise, but rarely anything further. Not that there is any reason to think that the Countess wanted the power of observation or thought, but it is evident that she had only the very humblest object in view in keeping a diary,—that she aimed at nothing more than providing a slight assistance for her memory.

It seems further that, when she had anything of great importance to record, she often abstained from doing so. There was one moment in her life when she was of real importance in Prussian history. This was in the last months of 1808, when the French army of occupation was on the point of leaving Prussia, and Napoleon was forcing a new treaty upon the king, by which he hoped to hold Prussia down as effectually as if his army were not withdrawn. A great outcry was raised about the conspiracies against the French power, which were supposed to be rife among the Prussian officials and military men. Davoust and Daru took the lead in the agitation, and the servile French party among the Prussians, which had its head-quarters at Berlin, echoed all their charges. One of the absurd stories they circulated was that the Countess Voss had written a letter to Prince Wittgenstein, then at Hamburg, proposing to him to poison Napoleon at Bayonne. The Prince was actually arrested on this charge.

About the same time, we find the leading statesmen of Prussia complaining that it is impossible to keep important state secrets because of the Countess Voss's *teas*, at which everything was repeated. These are not matters of the first importance, but they are, at least, more important than nine-tenths of the matters dealt with in this diary, and any information the Countess might give about them would be of some interest to students of Prussian his-

tory, particularly as it would be certainly authentic. But we are disappointed; the diary contains not a syllable on these subjects, nor has the editor any light to throw upon them.

If a reader is very anxious to realize to himself exactly how the royal family of Prussia lived in that distressful period after Jena which was passed at Memel, he should take this book and compare it with the diaries of Sir George Jackson (of which the last volumes are called 'The Bath Archives'). He will find in the one book that the Countess met Mr. Jackson, and in the other that Mr. Jackson met the Countess. For all we know, he may be able to find two histories of the same evening in the two books. We must add, however, that in all probability neither history will be worth reading, though the English diarist is in every case to be preferred. The diary before us at any rate can serve no better purpose than is served by a visitors' book at an inn. The utmost you can look for is to find what persons were to be met with at the Prussian Court at a given time. In turning over so many names, however, something will occasionally strike the eye. For instance, in the later years of Frederic the Great, the Countess often mentions a Humboldt among those at Court. This we take to be the father of the illustrious brothers.

We have been speaking of the staple of the book, than which nothing can be more unprofitable. There are, however, three passages in it which are more interesting. Of these the first is that part of the diary which refers to the last years of the Seven Years' War. As the editor says, there is something startling and "almost enigmatical" in the style of these pages, which show us "how, at the very time when the King, overwhelmed with losses and misfortunes of every kind, struggles all the more heroically against the enemy's superior force, people at the Court of his wife, sisters, and sisters-in-law were trying to drive away the time with petty amusements, and scarcely troubled themselves seriously to know what territory of the miserable and exhausted land was at the moment groaning under the heavy hand of the Russians, Austrians, or French!" Besides the curiosities of this, these pages give us a more distinct notion than perhaps it was possible to get before of one who certainly is among the most unimportant personages in history, but yet a queen, and the queen of a great king; we mean Elizabeth Christine, the neglected wife of Frederic the Great. Her impatience and dogmatism, her want of tact in conversation, are traits which we think are new:—

"The queen was present, too, and made some very angry remarks about the unfavourable accounts and reports that were circulated about her Court. I do not know what she can mean but some silly gossip here in the place, which should not have been listened to, and still less noticed. But she would not leave off scolding and declaiming that the people who received from her the greatest attentions were loudest in mocking and ridiculing her; in short, I am sorry to say she said a number of things which put us all into perplexity, and were very little becoming in a queen."

The other two interesting things in the book are the two parallel love-stories—that between the heroine and Frederic's brother, Prince August Wilhelm, and that between

her niece Julie and King Frederic William the Second. In the history of the Hohenzollern house, these two stories are really not unimportant, and the more so because they run parallel to each other. In both cases, the lady is pursued with the most ungovernable passion. In the first case, she makes her escape from the royal addresses by a marriage without affection; in the latter case she yields. But both the lovers, at the time of falling in love, bear the title of Prince of Prussia, and one is the father of the other. King Frederic William the Second is a person who, as soon as it becomes part of a proper English education to learn something about Continental, especially about Prussian history, will be recognized as having a great historical importance. His peculiar ungovernableness, his total want of the stern self-discipline which has made the greatness of his house, had great consequences in the world, for they produced that demoralization of the Prussian state and army which ended in Jena and the Peace of Tilsit. His character is the more worth studying because it was not without strong and remarkable qualities, so much so that Kant could describe him as a "brave, honest, humane, and—putting aside certain peculiarities of temperament—a thoroughly excellent prince." We seem to get some light upon his character from the way in which in this book it is set over against that of his unfortunate father. Ungovernableness is equally the characteristic of both father and son. The elder Prince of Prussia, at the celebration of the marriage which he has forced our diarist into contracting, actually falls down in a fainting fit, and has to be carried out. The same unrestrained sensibility is shown in the circumstances of his death. In this volume is printed a letter from a Fräulein von Kleist, describing the persistency with which, when attacked by illness, he, broken-hearted by the harshness with which his brother treated him, refused to listen to medical advice or take remedies, until, in spite of all the care of those about him, he succeeded in rendering his illness fatal. The family likeness is plain in the notes which the diarist makes of the behaviour of his son, Frederic's successor. He pursues Julie as his father had pursued our diarist, until she consents to a left-handed marriage, and, in the remarks here made, both on this persecution and on his other amours, we see how different was the Prussian Charles the Second from the English one. We see a man of passion rather than a man of pleasure, a sentimentalist rather than a cynic; that is, a man not wanting in the feelings so much as in the discipline of virtue.

Just so much we seem to learn from this book, though, indeed, it would not be safe to treat as serious historic testimony a document so exceedingly light and so conventional in its tone as the diary of the Countess Voss. But the time will come when King Frederic William the Second of Prussia—the king who made the treaty of Reichenbach, the second and third partitions of Poland, the invasion of France, and the treaty of Basle—will be a better-known historical character than he now is; and it will then be interesting to observe that the faults of his public career were of the same kind as those which were observed in his private life, that is, very great and scandalous faults, but not faults of will so

much as of impulse, the irregularities of a warm temperament joined to a somewhat confused understanding.

Adventures in New Guinea: the Narrative of Louis Trégance, a French Sailor. Edited by the Rev. Henry Crocker. (Sampson Low & Co.)

CAPT. LAWSON'S wonderful stories about New Guinea are totally eclipsed by this narrative of a French sailor, whose substantiality and veracity are vouched for by no less a person than the incumbent of St. Ann's, of Wéremai, N.Z., who has kindly acted as its editor. We have certainly not been able to find such a place as Wéremai in the 'New Zealand Directory,' but this need hardly be wondered at, for in a colony new places are springing up almost daily.

Louis Trégance, the hero of this narrative, is a native of the French province of Maine. His parents, as is usual in such cases, were honest but poor. Having espied the sea from a high hill near his native village, he naturally conceived a passion for a mariner's life, and, like many another French lad, ran off to sea. The master of the Ville du Havre received him on board, without asking inconvenient questions, and took him to Liverpool. There he fell ill, and on his recovery entered the service of a Mr. Cunningham, whose daughter had visited him whilst in hospital, taught him to read (for his early education had been sadly neglected), and converted him to Protestantism. In the plain and straightforward language which soldiers and sailors sometimes look upon as their exclusive birthright, he thus speaks about his conversion:—

"I became a Protestant, a step which I have never since regretted, for I have thus been taught to depend more upon my conscience than upon the minister for guidance, and this self-direction promotes a sense of responsibility which induces one to read and think for oneself. The habit of doing so has been most valuable to me in my wandering life; and, although I have doubtless fallen into many errors, yet I have also been saved from perpetrating many serious offences which I should have committed had I not learned to interrogate my conscience in respect of all my duties."

When his young mistress died, our hero left the service of Mr. Cunningham, and his old ship, the Ville du Havre, appearing in the nick of time, he embarked in her, and, in the course of the following years, visited Australia, China, and "all the ports of the southern hemisphere." About 1862, his vessel was despatched on a trading venture to New Guinea, but, foundering within a few miles of the coast, he, with four companions, fell into the hands of the savage Kahshi. The shipwrecked sailors were treated kindly, to all appearance. They were liberally supplied with yams and fish, but, as it turned out afterwards, this unlimited supply of food was furnished only to render them more suitable subjects for a cannibal feast. Our hero saw one of his companions after the other thrown upon a heated slab, but, when his own turn came, and the officiating priest caught hold of his hand to lead him to the slaughter, he felt that he had received the "first masonic grip," and, having become a mason whilst at the diggings of Ballarat, he joyfully responded, and his life was spared!

Strange stories reached his ears about a powerful kingdom in the interior of the island, which was said to abound in gold. He thought that his experience as an old gold-digger might prove of service there, and started with the intention of offering his services to the king. Climbing the coast range, he saw spread out beneath him a vast plain of exceeding fertility, in which herds of cattle, buffaloes, antelopes, and other game were seen in all directions. The snow-capped peaks of Tainavaorka rose beyond. The capital of this kingdom of K'ootar consists of 3,000 houses, three to seven stories in height, and though the streets are narrow, our author does not think this a serious drawback, as the inhabitants are forbidden by law to be in a hurry. The people of this wonderful land are small in stature and of olive complexion. They are armed with the usual weapons of savages, wear shields and breastplates of gold, and ride swift ponies striped in white and yellow. Their dress is decent, except at the levées of the king, when it is *de rigueur* to appear without any disguise whatever. Our hero's duties as a mining engineer took him to the gold-mines of Warata, in the very centre of the island. On the road thither, he passed a valley of serpents, much more wonderful than that described in M. Verne's 'Around the World in Eighty Days.' His adventures were numerous, as a matter of course, but none was more curious than his fight with a boa constrictor, which would really have ended fatally, but for the intervention of a crocodile. The serpent fortunately swallowed the crocodile, and could thus be killed whilst in a state of torpor.

On his return to the capital, the eminent services of this rival of Capt. Lawson were recompensed by his being received a member of the tribe. He married a chief's daughter, taught the natives how to read and write, translated portions of the Scriptures, and set up a Bible-class. These missionary labours naturally roused the anger of the native priests, and, when an epidemic came over the country, he was charged with having caused it, and would certainly have been killed had it not been for the intervention of powerful friends, who caused the penalty of death to be commuted into banishment. In a boat he escaped to Australia, was held captive there by the savages for two years, and was finally rescued by his old friend, the captain of the Ville du Havre. Truth, to a certainty, is stranger than fiction!

The editor tells us, in his Preface, that "as the true character of the book is evident to the careful reader, it is unnecessary that more should be said by way of introduction to it." We perfectly agree with him. The "careful reader" will certainly hesitate before he accepts this curious production as a truthful relation of actual adventures, and, if the book has been produced in order to illustrate some political or social crotchet, or in emulation of such deserving favourites as 'Gulliver's Travels,' or M. Verne's 'Voyage à la Lune,' it cannot be regarded as otherwise than a failure. Nothing is to be learnt from it, and the amusement it affords is of the mildest description.

Domestic Economy for Girls. In Three Books by various Writers. Edited by the Rev. E. T. Stevens, M.A. Oxon. Book I. for Fourth Standard. (Longmans & Co.)

THIS little book consists of a collection of short articles, dealing with the chemical composition, nature, use, and methods of preparation of the familiar objects of domestic economy. From butter and cheese to sewing-machines, from leather and pickles to sick-room cookery, nothing is left out; but, as may be expected, the articles, coming as they do from various writers, are of very varying degrees of excellence. The article on butter, for instance (with the signature C.), is a lively little essay, that cannot fail to be attractive to children; the facts it contains will be impressed on the memory through the neat incisiveness of the style which conveys them. Other articles are dull and heavy catalogues of the different varieties of some article of daily consumption, and of the localities from which it is derived. One or two of the articles again seem strangely out of date, such as that which informs us that the cultivation of rice in Georgia and South Carolina, being an unhealthy employment for Europeans, "is therefore chiefly performed by negro slaves" (p. 55). The girls of the Fourth Standard may be expected to know that slavery has ceased to exist in the United States, and therefore no great harm will be done by G.'s inaccuracy; but the sentence quoted may shake their confidence in his other information, even where it can be with the greatest safety relied on. It is only fair, however, to point out that another writer, the author of the article on sugar, has taken care to mention that slavery has been abolished both in the English colonies and the United States, and that the cultivation of the sugar-cane is now carried on by free negroes (p. 36). There is a fair sprinkling of good receipts in different parts of this little manual: it may be suggested that their usefulness would be greatly enhanced by the addition of an index; and if the receipts were eliminated from the text, and reprinted in an appendix, they would be much more accessible when they were required for practical use. One is apt to lose sight of a receipt for beef-tea, if it is hedged in with pious ejaculations about sick-nursing, and anecdotes illustrative of the fastidious appetite of invalids. We cannot refrain from one little word of protest against the concluding sentence of this chapter on Sick-nursing. "This" (the care of the sick) "is indeed woman's work. She need seek no further while this labour of love is committed to her hands" (p. 280). It is a sufficient comment on this enthusiasm, to remember that there are not, thank Heaven! enough sick people in the world to give work to all the women who need employment. Thousands of women must "seek further"; and surely, when we remember the many hardships of a nurse's life, we may hope that they will not "fare worse." As much honourable work may be done in the world for able-bodied people as for invalids, and it is a false sentimentalism to attempt to raise the care of the sick into the position of the one absorbing interest and occupation of half mankind. In conclusion, while this little book is by no means an ideal of a manual of domestic economy, it may be

of great use in the hands of a skilful teacher who knows how to prepare the materials it contains into a digestive meal of instruction for her pupils.

Celtic Scotland: a History of Ancient Albion. By William F. Skene. Vol. I. *History and Ethnology.* (Edinburgh, Edmonston & Douglas.)

THE author of this volume has undertaken to include in one work, and to lay before the public, in a compendious form, all the existing information relative to the history and inhabitants of Scotland during what he defines as the "Celtic period," i.e., from the earliest date down to the death of Alexander the Third, A.D. 1285-6.

The object and scope of the present work are fully set forth in the Introduction:—

"The subjects of this work will be most conveniently treated under three separate heads or books. The first book will deal with the Ethnology and Civil History of the different races which occupied Scotland. . . . This will lay the groundwork for an inquiry into their races and language; and an attempt will then be made to trace the history of these different races, their mutual struggle for supremacy, the causes and true character of that revolution which laid the foundation of the Scottish monarchy, and the gradual combination of its various heterogeneous elements into one united kingdom; and thus, by a more complete and critical use of these materials, to place the early history of the country, during the Celtic period, upon a sounder basis. The second book will deal with the Early Celtic Church of Scotland and its influence on the language and culture of the people. The subject of the third and last book will be the Land and People of Scotland. It will treat of the early land tenures and social condition of its Celtic inhabitants. The publication of the Brehon Laws of Ireland now enables us to trace somewhat of the history and character of their early tribal institutions and laws, and of their development in Scotland into those communities represented in the eastern districts by the Thanes, and in the western by the Clan System of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

In the present volume there is comprised only the first part of the proposed work.

The history of Scotland previous to the accession of Malcolm Ceanmor possesses little more than ethnological interest. The annals, both Irish and Scotch, which form the only trustworthy basis for the construction of Scotch history during its earlier period, are of the barest and most jejune character, being little more than a chronological table. The character of the earlier and contemporaneous authorities is fairly stated by our author:—

"Their statements are, no doubt, meagre, and may appear to afford an insufficient foundation for the deductions drawn from them, but they are precise; and it will be found that though they may compress the account of a campaign or transaction into a few words, yet they had an accurate knowledge of the transactions the result of which they wished to indicate, and knew well what they were writing about."

Mr. Skene, already well known by his editions of early Celtic chronicles, is pre-eminently fitted for the task which he has undertaken, and has fulfilled his purpose with the utmost industry and care. In fairly estimating the value of the present work, it must be admitted that no amount of accuracy and zeal, no detailed examination of contemporary authorities, can give a *personal or historical* interest to the long list of kings who, differing from

each other no more than the pieces on a draught-board, were born or died, slew or were slain, at certain fixed dates. The names and fortunes of these "shades of names" are only useful and interesting as denoting the fluctuating fortunes of the conflicting nationalities which they represent, and enabling us to trace the formation of the nation now known as the Scotch.

The title of the present work is well chosen to describe the scope and object of its author's undertaking; he does not attempt or profess to write the history of any specific tribe or monarchy, but, as a basis to the history of a period subsequent to that treated of in his work, to elucidate the fortunes of the conflicting nationalities which, occupying various portions of the country subsequently known as Scotland, have been gradually fused into a single nation.

By the term "Scotland," Mr. Skene means the portion of the island now known as the *kingdom of Scotland*, and anticipates any difficulties as to the meaning of the term by a clear statement in his Introduction of the history of the word "Scotia or Scotland." He thus, at the very commencement of his work, draws the attention of his reader to the fact that the first step towards a knowledge of mediæval history is to escape from the thrall of modern political geography. As much confusion has been introduced into the history of the British island by the idea that there was some reason in the nature of things that England and Scotland should be divided by the river Tweed, as into German history by the assumption that the Rhine was the natural frontier of France; it is, therefore, with much pleasure we observe that the present work is not only illustrated by historical maps for the different epochs, but is introduced by a physical map, from a reference to which it may be easily seen how, in most cases, the political coincided with the natural divisions.

The present volume must be considered as introductory to the second and third parts of the work, which, from their nature, must possess greater interest, and derives its value rather from the conscientious and exhaustive mode in which existing authorities are dealt with than from any new theories put forward by the author.

It is difficult to judge of a work by what is confessedly an introductory volume, but we should suggest to Mr. Skene that, if the "Celtic" period of Scotch history extends down to the end of the reign of Alexander the Third, the third part of the proposed work should not be confined to the development of the Thanes and the clan system, but should contain also a detailed account of the introduction and extension of the feudal system in Scotland. Mr. Skene distinctly describes the accession of David the First, in A.D. 1124, as the true commencement of feudal Scotland, and admits that the term of Celtic Scotland becomes no longer applicable to it as a kingdom, in which he decidedly differs from previous authors, who hold "the old notion that feudalism was introduced into Scotland in the reign of Malcolm." If Mr. Skene intends to confine the subsequent portions of the work to the Celtic civilization and Scottish Church in their original condition, and before they were affected by foreign influences, he should have terminated his history with the accession

of the first feudal king rather than the death of the last male of the last native dynasty. The entire change in organization and the increase of civilization and material wealth in Scotland between A.D. 1124 and A.D. 1285-6 is entirely overlooked by the arbitrary termination of the first part at the later date, unless our author subsequently shows in detail wherein the Scotland of Malcolm Ceanmor differed from that of Alexander the Third, and how and why so great a change came about.

The volume before us is not, and does not profess to be, a popular work, nor does our author pretend to write a detailed history of Scotland subsequently to A.D. 1124; but he has succeeded in laying down a broad and clear foundation for the two succeeding parts of his work, and has produced a work worthy of the attentive perusal of not merely Scotch, but also English and Irish, students and antiquarians.

RECENT VERSE.

Songs by a Song-Writer. By W. C. Bennett. (H. S. King & Co.)

Rakings over Many Seasons. By Richard Trott Fisher. (Pickering.)

MR. BENNETT plumes himself on being a song-writer. Songs are his especial delight. Ever since he could read songs, he has loved them. "The dearest shelf in my bookcase," he says, "is where rank, shoulder to shoulder, in loving brotherhood, Burns and Béranger, Campbell and Herrick." Song-writers are his familiar friends. The epic speaks to his brain: "The song," on the other hand, "sings to my heart, and my heart laughs or answers in tears,—what pleasant ones!—to every cry of Nature which it utters." It is not surprising, then, that, with his love of songs, has grown his love of song-writing. He finds, moreover, as encouragement, that "we have no songs in the sense in which Scotland and France, and even Ireland, have them"; and he asks, "Why is it we English have no 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'John Anderson, my Jo,' no 'Ae Fond Kiss' and 'Annie Laurie,' or, to cross the Channel, no 'Le Grenier' or 'Lisette'?" He also supplies the answer. We have feelings true enough; but, it seems, we scorn to utter them. We strangle this utterance as we would the cry of physical pain. We hold it weak to waste ourselves in words. Our feelings are as undemonstrative as they are deep. As a consequence, "this natural reserve weighs down the song-writer with a servile obedience to the iron opinion that rules around him." It is this servile obedience to opinion that Mr. Bennett would disregard, and, accordingly, he is anxious to supply the deficiency complained of. He has written nearly four hundred songs, and has conceived the idea of writing "a lyrical poem composed of songs, each of which, while complete in itself as an independent poem, should form a connecting link, carrying on by the feeling it expressed, or the incident from which it sprang, the tale which the whole together loosely completed." Some few songs from this collection have been included in the volume in hand, and what the author wants to know from his critics is, whether the rest may venture "from the safe darkness of manuscript into the dangerous daylight of print?"

We have no hesitation in saying we see no

reason why they should not be published. The specimens before us have merit. The thought, it is true, is never very deep; but it is usually expressed in graceful form. A tender and refined feeling colours almost every poem. The author possesses undoubted lyrical power. He is acquainted with the technicalities of his art. We have lighted upon few instances of bad taste. Had there been no previous song-writers, Mr. Bennett would have been a great as well as a prolific songwriter. As things are, he is not. He is not self-inspired. He wants originality. If the captain of the Cunard steamer that to-day came into port had been the first to cross the Atlantic, he could claim the honours due to a great navigator. But his achievement, done with ease and comfort and safety, is not to be compared with that of him—

Who first beyond the seals of sunset prest,
Even to the unfusted west,
Whose back-blown flag scared from their sheltering seas
The unknown Atlantides.

Mr. Bennett is not a Columbus of song. He is only an adept at making an egg stand on its end after he has seen the operation performed by others. This he confesses. "I have loved all styles of song-writing," he says, and "loving all, I have attempted all. Nor, will those who read this volume find it difficult to trace the influence of"— and he proceeds to enumerate a host of eminent singers, English, Scotch, Irish, and French.

This is not the method by which "we, in this England of ours, to-day," can expect to have songs "in the sense in which Scotland and France, and even Ireland, have them."

While Mr. Bennett has given us much, and has more to give, Mr. Fisher is giving us his last and has given before. He has already published three volumes, and this may be regarded as the aftermath. Whether an editor has a right to sweep the study of an author, in order to present to the public eye what the author never meant to be published, is doubtful. There can be no doubt the author himself has the right to offer the chips and shavings accumulated. This Mr. Fisher has done. In 'An Apology,' marked by some pathos, he describes the volume as—

The spoil of interrupted work,
The sport of cost or labour-shirk;
Maybe, the wanton waste of ink;

and his excuse is that—

All be they worthless, yet will I,
A careful man, who soon must die,
Just rake things up and lay them by
For tidiness;
That men may say, when I am gone,
He was an easy man, but one
That labour'd till his work was done.

Under these circumstances great things must not be expected. The volume is composed of a variety of poems in a variety of styles, and in Latin as well as English. Some of Mr. Fisher's hexameters and pentameters are graceful and scholarly, and, although one or two of the imitations of Horace are good, the translations offered of such odes as 'Persicos odi' and 'O fons Bandusiae' are not satisfactory. For those who are fond of the Sonnet, there are two or three, written over forty years ago, that are passable.

The Forum Romanum. By J. H. Parker, C.B. (Murray.)

MR. PARKER has in this volume continued the account he has from time to time rendered of the valuable researches carried out in Rome during the last ten years, and still in progress, in many of which, too, he has himself borne a large part; and, though the narratives he has given are, from the nature of the case, in some degree disconnected, each new work he issues adds materially to the stock of our knowledge of what ancient Rome must have been really like, and tends to clear away many of the errors into which scholars as well as the public have been led by too ready a reliance on the dicta of the many distinguished men who have devoted their abilities to the study of Roman topography.

It ought never to be forgotten that such men as Rossi and Nibby, and Niebuhr and Bunsen, drew up their valuable accounts or reports before any excavations of moment had been made; and especially before the successful labours of Mr. Parker himself, in his discovery of the Porta Capena, of the real boundaries of the most ancient Rome (or Roma Quadrata), and of many other points of great topographical interest, which were already buried, and out of sight even when Livy and Dionysius wrote their works on Roman history. It is obvious, therefore, that a new history of Rome, from the remains recently discovered, and now available for inspection and criticism, is greatly needed, and to aid in the accomplishment of this task has been the object alike of the excavations Mr. Parker has conducted, mainly at his own expense, and of the volumes he has published on the antiquities of Rome.

A resident in Rome for the winter season of the last twelve or thirteen years, and personally present when all the more important excavations have been made, with a complete knowledge also of what was the previous state of superficial Rome, no one could have been more fitted to give, as he has done, fully and clearly, all the details that can be required on this interesting branch of antiquarian investigation.

The object of his present volume is to trace the history of the Forum Romanum, which has (with the exception of the Colosseum) been more fully investigated, at the cost of the Roman Government, than any other part of Rome; taking with this the Via Sacra, which it has been usual, though not with accuracy, to consider part of it, chiefly, no doubt, because, till the excavations of last year (1875), it was not known that the true Forum terminated with the steps in a line with the Rostrum and the Temple of Julius Caesar, and that it did not include what has been called the Regia.

It may not be generally known that the first excavations on the site of the Forum were made in 1812 by an English lady, then resident in Rome, the Duchess of Devonshire, who dug out all the space between the Tabularium and the modern road, with the consent of the French, then the governors of Rome. How little, however, was really then accomplished may be readily seen by comparing the views given by Mr. Parker of the several stages of the work, viz., Plate I. the Forum as it appeared in the seventeenth cen-

tury 1812. On was stim offer from cost the thea Rom Emp of any Gar been Coll resu cent babi of even they Emp exte Sign T prop mus hist of anc prel wha roun Foru to grad to j that Foru plete temp three and O of the e worl of th or so anti situ all t of hav orig them thou emp M than phot wor be a pan the to bu illus B two ha

tury; Plate VI. the Temple of Saturn in 1812; and Plate II. the Forum as in 1874. On the return of the Pope to Rome the work was suspended—though Prince Demidoff, stimulated by the example of the Duchess, offered to excavate the whole of the Via Sacra, from the Forum to the Colosseum, at his own cost—some actors (it is said) having ridiculed the Pope at one of the Prince's private theatricals. Nor were excavations resumed in Rome for *forty* years, and then by the late Emperor of the French, with the primary idea of obtaining statues for the Louvre; though any one could have told him that the Farnese Gardens, where he commenced digging, had been completely ransacked,—the great Farnese Collection, now at Naples, having been the result of the researches of the seventeenth century, and there being, therefore, no probability of the discovery of any new remains of real value in that locality. When, however, the Italians took possession of Rome, they purchased these gardens from the Emperor Napoleon, and, since then, very extensive excavations have been carried on by Signor Rosa, who had been originally recommended to the Emperor by Prof. Henzen.

There can be no doubt that the plan proposed for these excavations—which, it must be recollect, have been entirely for *historical purposes*, and not with the view of discovering any individual specimens of ancient art—was a most judicious one, comprehending as it did the excavation of the whole of the Palatine Hill, with the slopes round it, together with the Via Sacra, the Forum, and the Colosseum. It is satisfactory to know that this great scheme has been gradually and carefully worked out, from year to year, so far as funds can be procured; that the whole of the western side of the Forum has been excavated, and that complete evidence has been obtained that the temple of Castor and Pollux, to which the three celebrated columns at the south end of the Forum belong, was begun by Julius Caesar and finished by Augustus, as he himself states.

Our only regret is that, during some part of these works, Signor Rosa left too much to the superintendence of careless, if not ignorant, workmen, and hence that much, especially of the marble pavements, has been destroyed, or sold to builders as old materials, which an antiquary would gladly have had preserved *in situ*, and, further, that Signor Rosa has rebuilt all the brick bases which carried the vaultings of the upper story of the Basilica Julia, having in many instances cut through the original marble pavement in order to insert them. This was clearly an error in judgment, though he had, doubtless, authority for the emplacement of some of them.

Mr. Parker's work is illustrated by no less than forty-five excellent plates reduced by photography, and, therefore, absolutely trustworthy; indeed, the texts of his volume may be considered as, in great measure, an expanded description of these plates. Of these, the first twenty-seven refer to the Forum, or to buildings in or nearly connected with it, and the remainder, for the most part, to a similar illustration of the Via Sacra.

Besides these, however, Mr. Parker has added two other matters of great interest, which have never, so far as we know, been brought together before in one volume,—the famous

inscription of Augustus, known as the *Monumentum Ancyranum*, because still on the walls of his temple at Ancyra in Galatia, and a representation of the actual wall still standing, to which was attached the "Marble plan of Rome," and which still retains the metal hooks whereby this plan was retained in its place. It ought also to be added that Mr. Parker has been able, from coins or medals, to give representations of no less than fourteen buildings, which originally stood in the Forum or hard by, together with a complete plan of the results of the excavations there, corrected up to January of the present year.

SCOTTISH POETRY.

The Poets and Poetry of Scotland, from the Earliest to the Present Time; comprising Selections from the Works of the more noteworthy Scottish Poets. With Biographical Notes. By James Grant Wilson. Vol. I. 1226-1776. (Blackie & Son.)

English School Classics.—Poems selected from the Works of Robert Burns. Edited, with Life of the Author, Notes, and Glossary, by Alexander M. Bell, M.A. (Rivingtons.)

GENERAL GRANT WILSON, in his Preface, tells us that "it has been said that Scotland has given birth to 200,000 poets." The startled reader will be glad to learn that it is no part of General Wilson's task to give even the names and dates of this "noble brotherhood," which would of themselves form a list vying in dimensions with the latest edition of the London Post-Office Directory. True, the names of a tribe over 199,000 of them are altogether unknown—an awkward affair for a modern editor—however lightly it might have sat on the mind and pen of an earlier author, accustomed to provide lists of kings to fill up historical blanks of 2,000 years. Indeed, one fancies the grand total must have been arrived at somewhat after the manner of those early "authorities," by some such calculation as:—Given that the Scottish nation has existed since the days of Scota and Gwyllglas; given also that each century has "given birth to" as many "poets" (taken at their own word) as the nineteenth; how many has Scotland produced, all told? But, as we have said, General Wilson does not attempt to verify the estimate; he only says, "If it be true," and passes on to the more practicable, if still formidable, task of supplying concise biographies and "selections from the writings of some 220 Scottish poets," great and small, the latter, of course, beating the former in quantity as decisively as they are themselves beaten in quality. Even 220 is a large number for a small country, and ill-natured critics might suggest that the poetic wealth of Scotland was attained by the same process as her value in pounds, shillings, and pence in former days, when the ore was hammered out so thin that a "pound scots" meant one - and - eightpence, and a man's worth sterling was ascertained by dividing his "worth scots" by twelve. But this would undoubtedly be depreciating the poetic coinage too much, for, of course, account for the fact as we may, whether on the ground of the country's history or of its natural features, or of both, Scotland has produced a high average of writers of poetry, especially of song, to say nothing of respectable versifiers. This is the main impression derived from glancing over

the list of authors included in the first installment of General Wilson's work, which, in 560 pages of close print, traverses the ground "from Thomas the Rhymer to Richard Gall." Of the 102 writers included, there are not a dozen whose names, or, still better, some of their songs or verses, do not survive in the general memory; although it is to be feared that the editor must descend to some of the lowest flanks of the Scottish Parnassus to find the 120 who are to be located in the present century, and of whom about one-half must be still alive.

The title of the work suggests comparison with Dr. Irving's "History of Scottish Poetry," edited, after the author's death, by Dr. Carlyle in 1861. But there is little in common between the two. Dr. Irving's work is a really full historical survey of the growth and development of Scottish poetry from the earliest period to the close of the seventeenth century, with ample examination of the great Scottish writers of the early and middle periods, lengthy specimens of their works, and the most varied stores of original research about their own lives and actions, which will ever render it indispensable to the student of literature. General Wilson dismisses the same long period in his first eighty or ninety pages, and leaves eleven-twelfths of his work to the modern period, since 1700. Then his biographical sketches are short and popular, not only pretending to no originality, but, in the earlier ones at least, showing little acquaintance with the less obvious results of modern inquiry. The specimens given from these early writers are also of the meagrest description, equally unsatisfactory to the scholar and popular reader; and it is doubtful whether General Wilson would not have done better to begin where Dr. Irving left off, making his book a collection of the modern poets and poetry of Scotland, than to have aimed at an appearance of completeness by the insertion of these scrappy passages from Barbour, Henry the Minstrel, and Lyndesay.

It is necessary to protest most emphatically against that pandering to the ignorance or idleness of "the general reader," which confirms him in his idea, that the things about which he knows and cares nothing are actually things undeserving of his knowledge or concern. It was the duty of General Wilson, if he dealt with the early writers at all, to deal with them worthily; to show, by the length of his extracts and the care of his editing, that he knew their worth, and would impress the reader with it too—a thing not to be done by the exhibition of a few fragments, from the extent of which John Barbour would appear to be of one-fifth of the importance of John Struthers, author of the "Poor Man's Sabbath," and James Scadlock, "one of the minor minstrels of Scotland," of greater note than Gawan Douglas. But evidently the editor is himself less at home among the old writers, even with the language in which they wrote, than among their modern representatives. His first subject, Thomas the Rhymer, illustrates this; for, in his account of this "day-starre of Scottish poetry," he repeats with unsuspecting simplicity the fancies of Sir Walter Scott, in his Introduction to "Sir Tristram," as "conclusions of much importance to the literary fame of Scotland"; these patriotic conclusions being, that, while "the indolence or taste of the minstrels" of Eng-

land "induced them to prefer translating the Anglo-Norman and French romances, which had stood the test of years, to the more precarious and laborious task of original composition," far in the enlightened North Thomas the Rhymer was collecting among the British tribes materials for an original romance, and inditing "in its original simplicity" the celebrated story of 'Sir Tristram,' "which was afterwards altered and perverted into a thousand degenerate forms by the *diseurs* of Normandy." This was hard upon the poor degenerate *diseurs*, considering that some of their versions of 'Sir Tristram' are generations older than Thomas the Rhymer, and that Scott's "original" happened itself to be simply a translation of one of them, and the famous "Thomas von Britannien," in whom Scott—"the glamour sure was in his ee"—saw Thomas the Rhymer, was a *diseur* of Britanny! The "day-starre" dances very unsteadily before General Wilson's eyes also, for, in endeavouring to harmonize Thomas the Rhymer's traditional name of Lermont with his documentary title "of Ercildoune," he supposes "his territorial appellation as proprietor of a mount or hill at Ercildoune may have grown into *Laird of Ersilmount*, and have gradually become converted into *Larsilmount* or *Learmount* (!)." But, unfortunately, "Rhymer's Lands," the extent of which is still well known, lay not on a hill, but down in the hollow: "Ersilmount" and "Larsilmount" are evolved from a glamourd imagination; and the soundness of the etymological structure equals that of its foundations. Of Thomas's alleged poetry we cannot say that a single line survives; but, if General Wilson felt the need of associating something with him, the First Fytte of the romance which bears his name was at least Scottish, was in existence within a century of his death, and makes some claim to be his, while 'Sir Tristram' is in a southern dialect, in an English manuscript accidentally preserved at Edinburgh, and begins by saying that the author was not Thomas, but had spoken with him! A little more care ought also to have been taken with the text of the older extracts. It was surely unnecessary to repeat the oft-corrected typographical or scribal error of *char for thar*, from Jamieson's edition of Barbour, in—

Na ws *thar* dreid thaim, bot befor;
i. e., nor is there need for us to dread them,
except in front; or to print on for *na*, *failythe* in Barbour's

A noble hart may haiff nane ese,
Nu ellys nocht that may him please,
Gyff fredome *failythe*; for fre liking
Is yharnit our all other thing.

In the extract from the Wallace, p. 12, we find *dispuyleid* for *dispuyleid* = *despuillé*; and in 'Christ's Kirk of the Green,' among many misprints and errors of punctuation, we find—

Than followit feymen, right unaffeird,
given as "Than followit feymen"—an historical past changed into the imperative. It would have been worth General Wilson's while, when resolving that his book should contain specimens from the old poets, to submit the sheets to some one more familiar than himself with the ground.

When we leave the early writers and come to those from the seventeenth century downwards, the character of the work improves.

Not, indeed, that the biographical sketches are altogether satisfactory, for, if more correct as to facts, they are characterized by a strain of eulogy which is generally extravagant, and sometimes absurd. Still this part of the book presents us with a good general view of Scottish song and verse, including English verse by natives of Scotland, and Scottish poems by English authors, such as Mrs. Blamire. A defect inherent in the plan of the work is, that it makes no provision for anonymous poems, which have either to be left out in the cold, or smuggled in under the cloak of some one to whom they have with more or less—generally less—show of reason been attributed. Thus 'Christ's Kirk of the Green' is, of course, ascribed to James the First; much less, of course, 'The Gaberlunzie Man' and 'The Jolly Beggar' to James the Fifth. 'Rauf Collier' and the 'Tales of the Priests of Peebles' do not appear at all; and was it on account of its unknown authorship, or by mere inadvertence, that, of more modern pieces, 'Auld Lang Sync' is not to be found in the book? This song is generally attributed to Burns, and included among his works; but he himself told Thomson that he took it down from an old man's singing, exclaiming, "Light lie the turf on the heaven-inspired poet who composed this glorious fragment!" Among disputed pieces we are glad to find that the 'Cuckoo' occupies its rightful place among the works of Michael Bruce. The author accounts it his peculiar good fortune "to be able to present to his readers unpublished poems by Robert Burns, William Tenant, Mrs. Grant of Laggan, Henry Scott Riddell, John Leyden, Hew Ainslie, Evan MacColl, and others who find an appropriate niche in this Walhalla." None of these new pieces are of any great importance, or such as to add to the fame of their writers, and their only claim to be included in this collection is that of not having been before printed. That by Burns is an (English) 'Ode for Washington's Birthday,' of which only a few lines appear in his correspondence, and which strongly attests the poet's democratic sympathies. Leyden's new piece is a slight copy of (twelve) 'Lines to Mrs. Charles Buller,' written at Calcutta.

In turning over the five hundred pages, the reader cannot but be struck with the view it affords of the fortunes of the Scottish dialect. Down to 1600 all Scotchmen wrote in Scotch. With the accession of James the Sixth to the English throne the national tongue was at once abandoned by the bards who sang to please the royal ear, and Sir Robert Ayton, the Earl of Stirling, the Earl of Anrum, Drummond of Hawthornden, and their contemporaries, are claimed as Scottish poets only by virtue of being born in Scotland. It was not till the very end of the century that Lady Wardlaw, by her 'Hardy Knute,' Hamilton of Gilbertfield, and perhaps Francis Sempill, by their songs, rollicking or tender, became the parents of modern Scottish poetry, in its three main divisions of ballad, humorous, and sentimental. How the stream has flowed on, interspersed with much of English whenever the theme was of a more thoughtful or meditative character, may be followed in General Wilson's pages, which, with all the blemishes we have pointed out, are an acceptable contribution to the literature of Scotland, and, as in some sense a sequel to Dr. Irving's work already referred to, which can never be dispensed with

for the earlier period, a book for which the lovers of her poetry and the students of her language will be alike thankful.

Mr. A. M. Bell's 'Selections from Burns' must be taken as a new proof of the extent to which the study of English is taken up in our better schools. To find the Messrs. Rivington publishing a series in which English writers are introduced and annotated with the same care as those of Greece and Rome, and spoken of as "School Classics" on the same page with their own "Catena Classicorum," is sufficient to make some "classical" scholars turn in their graves; but to find that these classics include not merely Bacon and Milton, and Addison and Johnson, but dialect-writers like Burns, is enough to bring their troubled manes back to earth outright. Thus we have in this neat little volume forty-five pages of "Selected Poems," twenty-one of "Selected Songs," forty-two of notes, eighteen of glossary, preceded by forty-eight of "Introduction, Life of Burns, Table of Literary Dates, and Peculiarities of Dialect." The selection is, we think, for the purpose judicious. Of course, in such a writer as Burns there was much more that might have been included; this the author, in his Preface, admits, but, at the same time, justifies the selection he has made, alike on the side of exclusion and inclusion, in view of the purpose of his little work:—

"The aim of the editor was to select such pieces as would enable boys to see that Burns, side by side with Cowper and at some distance from Crabbe, was foremost among the English poets, who, after a long period of silence, spoke out a poet's message in a poet's native language. The selections made seem not only sufficient, but best adapted to show that simplicity and truth, generous feeling and a manly independence of character, are the groundwork of poetry, and are natural to all ranks of men. This is the primary object of these selections, to illustrate by his own work what was most valuable in the life and thought of Burns, and to point out his position as one of the first reformers in English poetry by the introduction of direct and simple thought, which he himself perpetually calls the 'language of the heart.'"

Mr. Bell has taken from the linguistic works of Dr. J. A. H. Murray a brief account of the history of the Lowland Scottish dialect, and its most remarkable peculiarities of phonology and grammar, and, in this respect, his book is an important advance upon anything of the kind done in the pre-philological period of Scottish book-making. Yet he does not appear always fully to grasp the sense of words and passages. Thus in the lines

Gie fine braw claes to fine Life guards,
* * * * *
A Title, Dempster merits it;
A Garter gie to Willie Pitt, &c.,

we are told, "Here *title* is the logical subject; it is the thing in the poet's mind about which he was going to speak. It is repeated in *it* as the grammatical object." But surely the "thing in the poet's mind" was not only a *title*, but *Dempster* also, and the fact of a relation of *merit* between the two. The *first* thing in the poet's mind, moreover, was not the *title*, but that a number of men, including *Dempster*, were each to receive something. *Title* is, of course, the *object*, only that for emphasis Burns places it first, "a title *Dempster* merits"; and, from the exigencies of measure, adds *it*, which then becomes the grammatical object, leaving *merit* as an expan-

sion by means of a substantive in apposition. A similar error is made at ll. 72-76 of 'The Two Dogs,' which is curiously described as a difficult construction; and the entire note is a chain of blunders, because the editor has not noticed that the meaning is, "a cotter ditching, building, or *tirling* sustains himself, his wife, &c." "Auld farrant" has no connexion whatever with "fahren," to fare, travel, but is "old-favouring," i.e., favouring, *looking like*, an old person. The use of *favour* as to *look like* is well known in northern dialects: "t' barn favvers t' feyther"; in "well-favoured kine," "ill-fau'red bussies," the past participle is well known in this significance both in England and Scotland. "Ilka," every, is not "from the same pronominal base as *it*, Lat. *is*"; but from Old English *ælc* = *ælic*, *æ* meaning *ever*, *always*. Was Mr. Bell thinking of *ilk*, same, quite a different word, which may be paralleled with *idem*? The account of *mae*, *mo*, is altogether pre-scientific: "mo, more, most" has, indeed, tempted many dabblers in English grammar as "the regular comparison"; it is an effective booby-trap. Yet Alexander Gil, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, gave the comparisons "much, more, most; many, mo, most," "or maniest" he might have added. Any Scotchman could have told Mr. Bell the difference between *mae* and *mair*, Shakspeare's *mo* and *more*, which he will also find fully illustrated at pp. 81, 172 of Dr. Murray's 'Dialect of Southern Scotland.' There is much else in the Glossary which requires correction, as the absurd derivation of *callant*, the Flemish *Kalant*, a customer, "boy, lad," in a slang sense, as when we say a "jolly boy," from the French *gallant*! the statement that "tight" is the participle of *tie*, that "Jee!" said to a horse is probably the imperative of "gehen," "geh," "go on," &c.; and one regrets that the editor did not arrange to have the philological part of his work revised by some competent eye. Mr. Skeat, for example, would have saved him from several false "derivations," and even some misconceptions of meaning; and some such help must be called in before printing another edition. Meanwhile the aim of the book is good, the editor has honestly tried to realize it, and the result is something to be thankful for as the earnest of better things to come.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

Edina. By Mrs. Henry Wood. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

Nora's Love Test. By Mary Cecil Hay. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

For Name and Fame. By Mrs. A. B. Church. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

More than a Million. 2 vols. (Daldy, Isaacs & Co.)

Walter Lee. By H. W. Green. 2 vols. (Sampson Low & Co.)

Our Next Neighbour. By Courtenay Grant. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

Contes d'une Grand'mère: Le Chêne Parlant. Par George Sand. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

'EDINA' is, to some extent, a misnomer. The estimable lady of that name, who takes her large family of cousins in hand after their misfortunes, and, partly by her manual exertions, partly by the sacrifice of her small means,

enables them to exist, only appears in action during the period covered by the last two volumes. The plot of the story, as far as it has one, hinges on the sad accident by which Bell, the miner, is accidentally thrown into the bottomless shaft by his own daughter, under circumstances which tend to throw suspicion on the innocent Frank Raynor. Both parties are naturally unwilling to disclose their parts in the event; Rosaline for her invalid mother's sake, Frank on account of his betrothed. The result is a great deal of misery, Rosaline being weighed down by the consciousness of her father's death, Frank by his wife's misdirected jealousy and the pertinacious antagonism of Blasé Pellet, who conceives himself to have a fatal hold on one whom he regards as a rival. The subordinate history of Major Raynor's family in prosperity and adversity bears a good moral application, although the lights and shadows are laid on somewhat broadly, and the action of George Atkinson, who steps in to oust the Raynors when they mismanage the trust committed to them, and restores them to their possessions when poverty has chastened their arrogance, is rather too poetically just. There is, however, plenty of spirit in the narrative, and it is less objectionable grammatically than some works by the same hand we have noticed before.

There is nothing very life-like or interesting in 'Nora's Love Test,' the plot of which hinges on too elaborate and improbable a chain of circumstances. Nora is an impetuous, simple-minded girl, who has been brought up in a remote part of Ireland by an eccentric old gentleman, whom she objectionably styles "grandpa." The test of devotion proposed by her wicked lover, and fulfilled by her virtuous one, is the discovery of her father, whom she has never known. The former endeavours to use her filial affection for base purposes of his own; the latter brings Lord Keston home triumphantly, to refute a damaging story which connects him with the death by poison of a near relation. Of the two lovers we can only say that Dr. Armstrong is morally, and Mark Poynz aesthetically, repulsive,—at least, the languid, deliberate manner imputed to him would have been detestable in real life. Nora herself is good, and there are some well-imagined scenes in the story: that in which Nora, during one long night, sits up with her lover, so as to shield him from a villainous Irish assassin, whom she knows to be crouching outside, is admirably drawn. The better side of the Irish peasant is represented by old Kitty, the nurse, whose dialect and loyalty are both irreproachable. Will Pennington's honest, somewhat dog-like fidelity is just the quality which is least rewarded by its object. A sufficient consolation, however, is suggested for him to prevent our suffering much on his behalf, and all ends happily, even for the detestable doctor who has done so much to injure the gentle heroine.

Mrs. Church prattles in an aimless way through three volumes, in a French and English jargon which we find abominable, about the nothings which people contrive to do at Nice, and Monaco, and elsewhere. There is a great deal of dark mystery about the characters, but the reader does not care for it at all, and would have felt the same interest or the reverse if the book had consisted of one volume more or one less. For though Mrs. Church

appears to know the places about which she writes, her descriptions would do for anywhere else, as she invariably seizes upon the points in which there is the greatest similarity to other places, and upon the occupations which are the same all over the world. Monaco, Nice, and Cannes would be good places in which to lay the scene of a novel, because they are well known without having been used too often; but it is not enough to talk of dances and conversations, and then to throw in a few names like the Promenade des Anglais, and stick in a background of palm trees and blue Mediterranean. Mrs. Church has, perhaps, aimed at popularity by making her book almost exclusively conversation; but most women, even probably most girls, get tired of mere complimentary gossip. The way in which this sort of stuff comes to be composed seems to be as follows:—you imagine a number of ordinary people together, and then put down exactly what you would suppose them to say, in the course of an hour or so, if they had nothing particular to interest them. Most people get tired of that sort of thing occasionally, and probably nobody will think 'For Name and Fame' an interesting book who has not contracted an incurable passion for idle gossip, which, when it cannot get satisfaction by words, craves for it in print.

'More than a Million' is a farce with a moral, if this is not a contradiction in terms. Brown, an eccentric curmudgeon, who has heaped together a large sum by successful speculation, conceives the fiendish joke of executing three wills, by the first of which he bequeaths his fortune to "John Smith, for whom advertise," while the other two, subsequently discovered, are of even date, and destine the whole of the fortune to two different individuals. As the period selected is that of the unreformed Court of Chancery, before Trustee Acts were thought of, it may be imagined that such a jest has its point. Much broad fun is made of the different legal complications, while this laughing philosopher has his Heraclitian mood, in which he describes the widespread desolation caused by throwing such an apple of discord among a host of infatuated claimants. He makes an *amende* to society, however, by finally causing the next of kin to hand over the money to a Universal Benevolent Association, from whose action for the public benefit much good is anticipated. We have our doubts.

"Marlburians" will find some interest in 'Walter Lee' as reminding them of old localities and well-known names, the latter either in the thinnest disguise or none at all. The author seems to be a spiritualist, or, at least, to have a leaning to banshees and bogeyism. The story is lively, though sometimes objectionably vernacular in style, and contains a sufficient love-affair, and a somewhat too detailed narration of the horrors of the Indian Mutiny.

'Our Next Neighbour' is a bright, cheery kind of book without being at all interesting. The plot, such as it is, can be anticipated from the beginning, and the book is continued long after the marriage which, of course, forms the point of the story, in order to finish up two subsidiary episodes. Mr. Julius Hawkshaw, son of a very rich and vulgar tradesman, by purchasing "The Priory," becomes the next neighbour of the Marquis of Kirkcudbright. An accidental meeting, which is amusingly

whose name (for that also is necessary) is Camilla."
—*Euphues and his England*, p. 340.

P. A. DANIEL.

AN ANTIQUARY IN A DIFFICULTY.

WHEN Dr. Buckland was Dean of Westminster, the lately deceased Dr. Rimbault applied to him for permission to make extracts from the registers of the Abbey, in order to ascertain the dates of admission, and of the decease, of some of the eminent men who had been on the establishment at Westminster. The difficulty which presented itself to the Dean's mind was, that it would be too great a tax upon his own time to wait while the extracts were made, and that he could not give up the keys of the Munitiment-room to any person. Still he desired to oblige in all cases of literary research, and, therefore, offered to take Dr. Rimbault into the room, and to leave him there, to be let out at any appointed time. The proposal was particularly agreeable to Dr. Rimbault, as he could then work without interruption. Thinking that about three hours would suffice, and as he dined at an early hour, he appointed one o'clock. The Dean was not punctual, and the Doctor worked on. At three o'clock the latter felt the want of his dinner, his extracts were finished, and he wished only to be gone. "What could have detained the Dean?" But no step was to be heard. The evening service soon began, and at length the last peal of the organ had faded away, and all was quiet. It then became evident that Dr. Rimbault was forgotten; and how long was this to last? Before daylight had quite passed away, he had surveyed his position, and found that he was in a trap from which it was impossible to extricate himself. He could neither scale the window nor make himself heard. He was quite at the mercy of the Dean's memory; for he had not told any one where he was going, because he expected to return home within a few hours. "Would his disappearance be advertised, and would the Dean see it, and when?" Dr. Rimbault had none of the bodily fat which is said to support life under long periods of fasting, and the last was, therefore, an important question with him, "When would the Munitiment-room be next visited?" That was indeed a remote contingency; so that, like Ginevra in the chest which had closed over her with a spring lock, nothing but his skeleton might then be found. From these uncomfortable reflections, Dr. Rimbault was released late at night. He had drawn together some parchments to recline upon, but not to sleep, when at last a key was heard in the door. The good Dean had gone home to dinner, and had taken his siesta; after which he commenced ruminating over the events of the day, and then at last thought of his prisoner! He returned to the Abbey at some inconvenience, and set him free with many apologies. Dr. Rimbault's ardour to be shut up in a munitiment-room had then quite cooled.

SIR JOHN FENWICK.

Guildhall, E.C., Oct. 9, 1876.

The following extract from a Repertory of the Court of Aldermen, in my custody, may possibly prove interesting to some of your readers:—Court held 23rd of February, 1696. "Upon the humble Petition of several officers belonging to Mr. Sheriff Blewett, setting forth that they have attended several dayes and nights in their turnes at Newgate for the security of Sir John Fenwick, Baron^t, then attainted of high Treason, and that there is due unto them for such their service and Attendance Nine pounds tenn shillings, which they pray Mr. Sheriff may pay them: This Court was of opinion, and did so advise Mr. Sheriff, that hee ought to pay the said sume, which Mr. Sheriff consented unto." REGINALD R. SHARPE.

THE STORY OF ROMEO AND JULIET.

The story of 'Romeo and Juliet' occurs in an old and obscure work, 'The Treasurie of Auncient and Moderne Times,' printed by W. Iaggard, 1619, as follows:—

"In Verona, a famous City of Italy, liued a yong gentlewoman, named *Julietta*, of the noble house of the *Monteschies*, or *Montacutes*. Her father being not willing that she should marry, when both the decency of time and aptnesse of her yeares made tender of themselues: therefore (in her fairest flower) shee espoused her selfe, unknown to her parents, to a gentleman's son of another house and family, calld the *Capelets*, whose name was *Romeo*; and the *Capelets* were mortall enemies vnto the *Monteschies*, or *Montacutes*. This marriage sorted vnto the lamentable death of both the lovers, as you shall briefly hear, in this manner. They being secretly married by the hand of a *Cordelian*, or *Franciscan*, Friar (a man most expert in the secrets of nature), who tooke great compassion on their earnest reciprocall affection and daily torments between them endured, it hapned on a certain day, that an uncle to *Julietta*, in regard of the inuetret hatred between both the families, drew vpon *Romeo*, who (defending his own body) slew the said Uncle, whereupon he was banished, or inforced (at the least) to be absent from Verona. The wofull Gentlewoman hauing made her moane vnto the honest-minded Friar, vnder the shadow of confession, concerning the irksom absence of her best esteemed friend, he gaue her advice to receive a little potion when shee went to bed, which should cause her to sleep for more than 30 hours, so that she should be verily supposed to be dead. She boldly aduentured on his counsel, & her parents, imagining her to be dead indeed, caused her to be buried in the Tombe or vault belonging to the house of her predecessors. From thence the Friar purposed to fetch her at a certaine hour of the night, and to conduct her (in the habit of a Nouice) to banished *Romeo*, who liued in a land of another iurisdiction yet no far distance from the city. All this was possible & easy to be performed, for it was and is a common custome there not to burie deceased bodies in graves as it is obserued among vs, but in Grottes or vaulted caues. While these things were framing themselves according to premeditated purpose, it fortuned that a servant belonging to *Romeo* came to Verona to bring Letters of recommendation to *Julietta*, & being returned back to his master, reported the certaine tidings of her death, and that himself was present at her interring. *Romeo*, confounded with greefe and extremity of passions, found the meanes (in a disguised habit), before the shutting vp of Verona gates, to enter the city. In the dead time of night also hee compassed his intent, entering the Church with a lighted Torch in his hand, hauing opened the doores by the help of his servant, and also the tombe where she lay inclosed. Hauing commanded the absence of his servant, he entred into the vault, and after kisses infinitely bestowed by him on *Julietta*, whom he verily conceited to be dead, he dranke a most deadly poysone which hee had formerly bought of a very needie Apothecary, and which immediately fel to operation; so slept hee (for ever) by the body of *Julietta*. After her drinke hadde wrought his full power, she awaked; and by meanes of the burning Torch perceyued her *Romeo* to bee quite dead; whereat enraged with greefe, and snatching a ponyard that hung at his girdle, she presently there slew her selfe. The honest Fryar came, and (as he thought) at such a convenient hour, when *Julietta* shold awake from her artificall sleepe, that truely represented the shape of death: but when he behelde that tragicke wofull spectacle, let his sorowe be censured by them of best judgement. On the morrow after, the deathe of these two Louers was discouered, and all matters rehearsed by Fryar Lawrence—for so was the *Cordelian* nam'd. All which mournfull disaster happened because *Julietta*'s father wold not suffer her to marry when reason required." ALFRED WALLIS.

CAVENDISH COLLEGE.

THE Cavendish College, Cambridge, is to be formally opened by the Duke of Devonshire on the 26th of October. Earl Fortescue, the Bishop

of Ely, the Speaker, Mr. Justice Denman, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Vice Chancellor of the University, many of the Heads of colleges and professors, and a distinguished company of residents in the University, and friends of education from outside, have promised to be present on the occasion.

The aims of this college have become pretty familiar to the public through the pamphlets of Canon Brereton, its projector. Its main purpose is to enable students somewhat under the usual age of undergraduates to go through the university course, and take degrees; to impart a special training in the art of teaching to those students who desire to become schoolmasters; and to attract students generally by considerably reducing the necessary expenses of a Cambridge curriculum. It has been founded by a number of gentlemen interested in education, who have formed a limited company. The capital consists of 30,000*l.*, in 3,000 shares of 10*l.* each, and the directors have agreed with Trinity College, to purchase ten acres of ground in the suburbs of Cambridge, and have entered into a contract under which buildings are now in course of erection.

This college, when completed, will contain accommodation for three hundred students, with a corresponding staff of tutors; and the first block, that now erecting, is designed for the reception of sixty-seven students. It was to have been ready by the present time; but the delays of the builder have rendered it necessary to carry on the work of the college till January in temporary premises, though the building is advanced far enough to justify an inaugural ceremony. Indeed, the college has already entered on its work with ten students, whose average age is about seventeen. Its teaching staff consists of a warden and two tutors, each of whom has taken high honours, and the intention of its founders is that all the teaching the students can possibly require shall be supplied as part of the regular college course, and without any extra expense being incurred by parents. The college charges amount to 84*l.* per annum, of which sum it is calculated about 30*l.* will be spent in tuition, and the remainder will be exhausted by the cost of living, interest on capital, and other incidental expenses. All meals will be taken in common, but each student will have a room of his own to serve at once for bedroom and study. There will also be a liberal provision of common-rooms for social intercourse and other purposes.

The work of the college will go on as usual during July and August; and by thus carving a fourth term out of the long vacation, as well as by enforcing a residence of at least ten weeks in each of the three University terms, it is intended to obtain from thirty-eight to forty weeks in the year for study in Cambridge itself. Although students of the ordinary age, or even above it, will be freely received, it is expected that the majority of those who enter the college will come at the age of sixteen or seventeen, and stay till they are eighteen or twenty. The main object of course is to enable them to proceed to a degree, but this will not be made compulsory. Those who wish to do so must become matriculated students of the University, and must be qualified to pass the Previous Examination before they can be received into the college; while those who only desire to obtain certificates of having passed the Local Examination for Seniors, or the Higher Local Examination, must have already passed the Local Examination for Juniors. Those who pass the Local Examinations will receive from the college certificates of residence in addition to the certificate of proficiency granted by the University.

It is obvious enough that the college cannot hope to dispute with the older foundations the University scholarships and the higher places in the class lists, for it has no rich scholarship; to give to young gentlemen as a reward for allowing themselves to be educated; but it may do something to raise the standard among the "pall-men." Indeed, if it adheres to its resolve of receiving no undergraduate who cannot pass the Little Go it

will secure a higher average of attainment among its students than prevails in the other colleges. This, however, will be difficult, for it is clear that the college cannot be self-supporting unless large numbers are attracted, and there will be a constant temptation to make the terms of admission easy. At the same time, the new institution appeals to a class who could never afford to send their sons to the older colleges, and it may be, therefore, hoped that it will not languish for lack of students.

Literary Gossip.

A VOLUME of essays contributed by the late Earl Stanhope to the *Quarterly Review*, is promised by Mr. Murray. The articles are: 'Legends of Charlemagne,' 'French Retreat from Moscow,' 'Chronology of the Gospels,' 'The Year of the Passion,' 'Harold of Norway,' 'The Countess of Nithsdale.'

SOME time ago we announced that the preparation of a series of fac-similes of Anglo-Saxon charters in the British Museum had been sanctioned by the Trustees. The Government have now, we are glad to be able to add, undertaken to bear the expense of the publication of fac-similes of all the existing Anglo-Saxon charters that are not in the Museum; and it is proposed to begin with the valuable charters preserved in the cathedral library at Canterbury. The Museum authorities have adopted the autotype process: for the new series, the photo-zincographic has been chosen. This process was somewhat discredited by the unsatisfactory character of the fac-simile of Domesday, and one or two other publications, in which photo-zincography was adopted. But, since then, the *modus operandi* has been much improved, and, besides, photo-zincographs possess the great merit of durability. For the purpose of testing the process with a view to this series of charters, fac-similes obtained by photo-zincography were boiled and kept in hot water for more than four hours, and came out of the ordeal quite uninjured.

MR. STEVENSON, who, as our readers are aware, has been for some time examining the archives of the Vatican on behalf of our Record Office, has, we are sorry to hear, sent in his resignation. Many of the documents to which the liberality of the Pope and his advisers gave Mr. Stevenson access, and of which he has sent home copies, have proved of much interest to English Roman Catholics, several of whom have visited Fetter Lane to study them, and have also proved of use to Protestant historians.

MR. SAMUEL SMILES is engaged upon a work, to be issued this season, on the Life of Thomas Edwards, Associate of the Linnean Society, a Scottish naturalist. The work will be illustrated by George Reid, A.R.S.A. The portrait will be etched by Rajon. Mr. Murray is the publisher.

MR. MURRAY's list also includes 'Notes on the Churches of Kent,' by the late Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart.; 'Between the Danube and the Black Sea; or, Five Years among the Bulgarians and Turks,' by Mr. H. C. Barkley, C.E.; the third volume of Mr. Elwin's edition of the 'Poetical Works of Alexander Pope,' containing 'The Satires,' &c.; and the following educational works: 'The Student's French Grammar,' by Mr. Charles Heron-Wall, with an Introduction by M. Littré; the second and concluding volume of 'Principles of Greek

Etymology,' by Prof. Georg Curtius, of Leipzig, translated from the German by Prof. A. S. Wilkins, and Mr. E. B. England; 'A Practical and Historical Grammar of the German Language,' for advanced students, by Dr. Leonhard Schmitz; 'A Smaller History of France,' edited by Mr. William Smith; 'The French Principia,' Part III.; and 'The German Principia,' Part III.

THE third series of Father Morris's 'Troubles of Our Catholic Forefathers' is passing through the press. It relates exclusively to the persecutions of Catholics in the north of England, and is compiled from MSS. preserved at Stonyhurst, Oscott, and in private hands. These narratives from Catholic sources are largely illustrated from official records, and especially from the hitherto unransacked 'Housebooks' of the city of York. This volume will, it is said, throw as much fresh light on the history of the reign of Elizabeth as any of those which have preceded it.

PROF. E. H. PALMER's metrical translation of the works of the Arabic poet, Beha ed din Zoheir, is now completed, and will be shortly issued by the Cambridge University Press. The Arabic text, it will be remembered, was published some few months ago. Messrs. Trübner have also in the press a volume of poems by Prof. Palmer, entitled 'The Song of the Reed,' and containing translations from the Persian and Arabic, and humorous English pieces.

MESSRS. HANSARD's monthly list of Parliamentary Papers issued in September comprises nineteen Reports and Papers and seventeen Papers by Command. Among the former, we may call attention to the Report and Evidence on the Telegraph Department of the Post Office; the Report of the Commissioners on Patents for Inventions for the Year 1875; the Return of the Names of Proprietors, and the Area and Valuation of all Properties in the several Counties of Ireland; and the Report and Evidence on the Local Government and Taxation of Towns in Ireland. Among the Reports and Papers are the Fifth Annual Report of the Local Government Board (1875-76); the Twenty-second Report of the Postmaster-General; the Twenty-third Report of the Committee of Council on Education; the Report by Mr. Danvers on Railways in India; and the General Report, by Capt. Tyler, on Railway Accidents for the Year 1875. There are also three Reports on Explosions; one occurring at Small Heath, near Birmingham, on May 14, 1876; one at Liskeard, Cornwall, on May 12, 1876; and one (of dynamite) at Cymmer, Glamorganshire, on April 21, 1876.

UNDER the title of a 'Plea for Metaphysic,' Dr. Appleton will contribute to the *Contemporary Review*, for November and December, two articles, being an examination of the philosophical ideas and criticisms contained in Mr. Matthew Arnold's four recent works on the religious question.

THE 'Memoirs of an American Lady,' by Mrs. Grant, of Laggan, a work which has been long out of print, has been reprinted in the United States, with a number of biographical and illustrative notes, and a memoir of the author by General J. Grant Wilson.

On Saturday, the 30th of September, a novel, called 'La Princesse Vérité Glinsky,'

began to appear in *La République Française*. On the next day, Sunday (October 1), in the fourth chapter, it became clear that the hero of an equivocal love story was to be a certain artist, "Vladimir Makowsky," already named in the first chapter of the novel. On Monday (October 2) his personal appearance, his studio, and his family were described at length, and the novel continues to appear day by day with this gentleman, called the "First painter of Russia," for its leading character. Now the brothers Constantin and Vladimir Makowsky are, in fact, the first painters of Russia. The directors of *La République Française* cannot, of course, be aware that they have opened their columns to a form of "romance," for which we know no precedent. *La République Française* circulates largely in Russia, and great annoyance will, undoubtedly, be caused to Mr. Vladimir Makowsky.

At their last meeting the Council of the Camden Society decided upon issuing the following books for the year 1877-8:—1. 'Letters from and to Members of Christchurch, Canterbury,' to be edited by J. B. Sheppard; 2. 'Wriothesley's Chronicle,' vol. ii., containing the reigns of Edward the Sixth and Mary, to be edited by W. D. Hamilton; 3. 'The Debates of the House of Lords in 1624,' to be edited by S. R. Gardiner. Of the issue for the present year Mr. Gardiner's volume of the 'Collections of a Citizen of London' will be almost immediately in the hands of members; and the documents relating to William Prynne, with the late Mr. Bruce's biographical fragment, is in the press.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN & CO. will publish, in a few days, a fifth edition of Prof. Fawcett's 'Manual of Political Economy.' The book has been subjected to careful revision, and will contain two new chapters on the depreciation of silver, a subject which is just now of so much interest and importance to our Indian Empire.

THE wish must have been the father to the thought of Prof. Whitney's visiting India. The statement is said to have first appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, from whence it was copied into Indian journals, several of them being Anglo-Indian ones. The *Trinul Prakash* has a notice of the life and labours of the deceased Prof. Monier Williams, who is quite well, and will soon probably visit Poona, where the "Prakash" of that locality is said, according to the epithet it has assumed, to "shine."

ACCORDING to official statistics, 5,206 books were issued in Russia during the years 1873 and 1874. Of these, 679 were theological, 322 legal, 113 agricultural, 247 historical, 247 geographical and ethnographical, 195 mathematical, 135 military, 34 scientific, 224 medical, 438 philological, 94 artistic, while 1,851 treated of lighter literature, and 447 were translations of foreign *belles lettres*.

ACCORDING to the *Illustrierte Zeitung*, a Zurich printer has started a printing-office in which the compositors are women.

THE new work, on 'Historic Châteaux,' by Mr. Baillie Cochrane, M.P., which Messrs. Hurst & Blackett announce, will contain descriptions of Blois, Fontainebleau, and Vincennes, among other places. The title of Miss Craik's novel, which the same firm promise, is 'Anne Warwick.'

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MR. H. SIMON, of Schmalkalden, has translated and enlarged for the Chaucer Society his essay, 'Chaucer, a Wycliffite,' which is, in fact, a treatise on the 'Parson's Tale' and its inconsistencies, and on the character of the Parson. Mr. Simon urges that the Parson accepts, by his silence, the reproachful title of 'loller' or Lollard, applied to him in the *Man-of-Law-Shipman Link*; that the character of him in the General Prologue is that of a Wycliffite; that the 'Parson's Tale' was interpolated, and turned into a Romish treatise, by some monk after Chaucer's death; that the second and third parts of it are spurious; that many spurious passages are also contained in the first part; and that when these are removed, a consistent Wycliffite tract on Penitence remains. Though English Chaucerians will no doubt refuse to desert their best MSS., which are firm on the text, yet it is well to have all possible objections to the admitted inconsistencies and confusions of the tale brought forward.

A LITTLE collection of 'Hymns for Sundays and Holy Days,' by Mr. William Waterfield, of the Indian Civil Service, is to appear shortly. The volume of 'Indian Ballads,' which Mr. Waterfield wrote a few years ago, showed that he possesses some poetical ability.

MR. SCHÜTZ WILSON, the discoverer of Omar Khayyam, or, rather, of Mr. Fitzgerald's translation of Omar, will give an account, in the November number of one of the magazines, of an ascent of the Matterhorn, made on August 15-16, when the weather was unfavourable, and the mountain in a very dangerous state.

DR. RIMBAULT, we regret to say, has left a widow and family quite unprovided for. It is hoped that the merit of his labours will be recognized by some award from the Civil List.

MR. W. B. TEGETMEIER'S Shilling Handbook of Household Management and Cookery which, but for the ill-health of its author, would have appeared last year, is now nearly ready, and will be published in a few weeks by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

BRILL, of Leyden, proposes to publish extracts from the Talmud, embracing such parts of that voluminous work as are important or interesting even in the eyes of those who are not Israelites, relating to history, morals, archaeology, &c. The original text is to be accompanied by a literal German translation, together with necessary explanations and remarks. The author is H. J. Spiro. It is calculated that the whole will not exceed sixteen fasciculi. If the work be judiciously compiled, it will form a compendious lexicon, and facilitate the reading not only of the Talmud, but other Rabbinical writings. The specimen issued is well printed and good.

MR. PATERSON, of Edinburgh, has in the press a library edition of the works of Robert Burns, in six volumes, demi 8vo., uniform with Mr. Van Laun's translation of Molière. The poems and songs will occupy three volumes, arranged chronologically; the letters and other prose productions the remaining three. Each piece will be accompanied by a note, stating what is known of the circumstances under which it was written, and of the persons and events to which it refers. The original place of publication and some account of the manuscripts

will be given, and the author's variations will be recorded. Prof. Nichol, of Glasgow, will furnish an essay on the poet's life, character, and influence. Mr. W. Scott Douglas is the editor. The poet's autobiography, contained in his famous letter to Dr. Moore, will, in this edition, for the first time, be printed *in extenso*, from the original MS. The Earl of Dalhousie has granted permission for a collation of the poet's correspondence with Mr. George Thomson, parts of which have not yet been published.

THE following notes refer to Germany:—

The death is announced of Adolph Stahr.—Dr. Strousberg, whose name is only too well known in "financial circles," has employed his enforced leisure, pending his judicial examination, in writing an autobiography, which will be issued in Berlin in a few days. This work, entitled 'Dr. Strousberg und sein Wirken,' consists of twelve chapters, and describes his entire private and public life. The first chapter deals with his descent, which he vindicates from the dust cast upon it, acknowledging, it is true, his Hebrew origin, but showing a most ancient lineage. His book, he says in his Preface, though intended to justify his deeds, is no *apologia ad hoc*, but is intended to instruct the general public in the details of fourteen years' labours in the financial and industrial world. He neither glosses over failures nor conceals successes.—Berthold Auerbach is about to issue a new collection of his famous peasant romances, entitled 'After Thirty Years.'

SCIENCE

British Manufacturing Industries: Ship Building. By Capt. Bedford Pim, R.N., M.P.—*Telegraphy.* By Robert Sabine, C.E.—*Agricultural Machinery.* By Prof. Wrightson.—*Railways and Tramways.* By D. Kinnear Clark, C.E. (Stanford.)

WE have not unfrequently called attention to a fundamental weakness in the various text-books, hand-books, and similar works of which the present time is so productive. They are too technical and full of detail for the general reader, while, at the same time, they contain little or nothing with which the student of the special subject is not—or ought not to be—acquainted. If it be replied that the object of these books is to supply this very information to the studious, the reply is, that he ought not so to be taught. Many of our readers may be acquainted with some of those French works on anatomy, in which the entire structure of the human body is represented by such accurate delineation and such delicate colouring that it is possible to obtain a fair understanding of the entire vital apparatus from literary and graphic information, and thus even to pass a respectable examination—on paper—in anatomy, without any experience drawn directly from the dissecting-room. In consequence (and very properly so) those beautiful books have been always rigidly proscribed by the heads of the medical profession. The real surgeon or the experienced physician has a very accurate appreciation of the manner in which the medical student who gets up his knowledge from books would behave in case of actual disease. Something of the same objection applies to every effort to teach a technical subject in a book. The more a student is led to attempt to acquire a mastery of his pursuit in the library or in the class-room, rather than at the bench, in the mine, in the

foundry, in the model-room, at the lathe, and at the drawing-board, the less fitted he will be to discharge the real duties of his calling. Thus, in some respects, the better a text-book is in itself, the more mischievous it may be made to become if dissociated from the great teacher, practical experience.

This remark, which has more than casual or temporary importance, does not, however, altogether apply to the little volume before us. Speaking not so much of the execution as of the design, we regard the kind of book before us as likely to be eminently useful. It is not the object of these tracts to teach any one here to build ships, to work telegraphs, to cultivate earth by machinery, or to lay down railways. Nor is it at all intimated that these accomplishments are to be acquired by the study of books; although a reference to the best standard works forms a commendable feature in this place. But the main object we take to be, in plain language, the illumination of the thick darkness in which the ordinarily educated Englishman is, for the most part, involved with reference to the term technical subjects. Our schemes of education are far from giving those general, if somewhat superficial, views which are placed before the students of French Lycées. Thus, it will generally happen that, on any technical subject, a Frenchman will display a sort of airy acquaintance with its general relation to the Encyclopaedic knowledge which he thinks that he possesses, and will be able so adroitly to use certain brilliant phrases, indicative of profound mastery of the terminology employed, as to put to shame, if not silence, not only the ordinary Englishman, but even the student who may be at bottom better acquainted with the very subject in dispute than himself. Much of this appearance of brilliancy is due, no doubt, to the use of Greek adjectives, which do not really add much to the explanation of the matter. Thus, if an inscription be in question, the Frenchman will talk of the epigraphical laws, and the like. Still, if it be only for personal ease and comfort, the slight and comprehensive treatment of the French educators has no small advantage over our own time-honoured neglect of all but a certain round of studies. Books like the present are intended to remedy this want of schooling.

Now do we call the present effort altogether a failure. It is, indeed, questionable taste to occupy so much of the tract on ship-building with attacks on the Moorsom system of measurement, and on the general management of our dockyards. Not that we feel altogether indisposed to agree with Capt. Pim on these points; but they are hardly those we should have expected to find discussed in a tract of sixty-four pages on ship-building. None the less is there much valuable and well-assorted information contained in these pages. Their perusal (and recollection) would enable many a man to read his morning paper with better intelligence of its meaning, and to appear as quite an oracle at the dinner-table among those who had not read this book. Thirty-seven pages, again, is little enough for an attempt to do justice to the new and important field of Telegraphy. The name of Sabine is too honourably associated with science to allow the reader to expect any partial knowledge of this subject to be

evinced by the writer. If for no other reason than the printing of the Morse alphabet on p. 111, the book deserves purchase. Although the selection of symbols thus named is about as clumsy and ill arranged as any scheme emanating from so admirable a central idea could well be, still it is now so far established that criticism is distanced, and all that remains to be done is for every one to get the table by heart as soon as possible. The agricultural paper, again, if slight, is suggestive; and although it is not possible to say much about Railways and Tramways in fifty pages, they contain many facts that should be known. Probably the space allowed for each subject is too little. At all events, to fill such a space adequately, demands at once the highest literary power and the most perfect mastery of the subject. We cannot go so far as to say that these qualifications are displayed in the volume before us. But it is readable, instructive, and, we think, as far as it goes, sound in the main; and, as such, deserves commendation to the public. The writers have evinced a modest distrust of the permanent value of their own work by the unmistakable sign of the absence of Index.

TECHNOLOGY.

Technologisches Wörterbuch in Französischer, Deutscher und Englischer Sprache. Von Alexander Tolhausen. 3 Parts. (Leipzig, Tauchnitz.)

Of this laborious work the interest is international; it belongs equally to Germany, France, and England. Ninety thousand technical terms and phrases are here given in three languages. In the first part (contained in one volume), the order in which equivalent words are given is, French, German, English; in the second, English, German, French; in the third, German, English, French. A part of one of the shorter articles may be copied here, to give some notion of the compiler's plan, which includes—we are glad to say—the use of Roman and Italic, instead of Fraktur or German, type. The abbreviation *Bdr.* means Typography, and the sign — indicates that the heading is omitted.—

setzen, Schrift | so — dass der Text mit der Seite ausgeht (Bdr.); to make up the page; Tomber en page | spaltenweise, stuckweise — (Bdr.); to compose in companionship, in packets, in slips; Composer, travailler en paquet. | ein Stück — (Bdr.); to compose a packet; Composer un paquet. | stuckweise — nach Spalten—in Accord— (Bdr.); to compose by slips, in slips, in companionship; Composer en galée, travailler en galée, en paquet.

We can well believe that the work now before us represents "the labour of twenty years." The extent and difficulty of the work may be guessed when it is noticed that the word "Abzug" has distinct meanings in Drainage, Gunsmith's work, Metallurgy, Printing, and Photography, while that word may be called a non-versatile term, when compared with such words as "Gang" and "Stolle" in the Technology of Mining.

It is obviously a hard task to write a fair and compendious review of a work like this. All that can be done is to examine several articles, so various in their contents that they may serve as fair specimens of many others. To begin with terms used in Mensuration—care is displayed in giving equivalents of such words as "angle," "diagonal," "foot-pound," and "gauge." In articles belonging

to Geology, Mineralogy, Mining, and Metallurgy, the industry of the compiler deserves the highest commendation, as may be seen by references (in Part II.) to such words as "alum," "beryl," "diamond," "gault," "stone," "iron," "lead," "spar," "gear," "gallery," "lode," "vein." Here phrases as well as words are often given, as may be seen in the following excerpt from the article "Gang," in Part III. The abbreviation *Bdr.* means Mining.—

Gang, Erzgang | behauener— (Bdr.); Exhausted vein; Filon épousé, exploité m. | der—beschreitet ein anderes Gefährte, verreckt sich; The lode changes its bearing; Le filon change de direction. | der—beweiset sich (Bdr.); The lode contains metal; Le filon a du métal. | der—bleibt in seiner Stunde (Bdr.); The vein keeps its track; Le filon conserve sa trace. | der—blüht am Tage (Bdr.); The vein rises towards the surface; Le filon monte à la surface.

Good work will be found also in numerous articles belonging to Practical Chemistry. In technical terms having reference to the incipient science Meteorology, the dictionary, like all others, must be comparatively poor; but here articles are given with such headings as "aneroid," "barometer," "ozone," "rain-gauge," and "thermometer." In the departments Agriculture and Forestry, as in Botany and Zoology, so far as they are connected with industry, there are numerous articles of which fair specimens are found under the headings, "elm," "oak," "maple," "spindle-tree," "silkworm," "cocoon." Under the heading "tobacco" the worst variety, "mundungus," is not considered too vile to be named. With respect to Vineyards, the compiler gives comparatively few technical terms denoting such processes in "Verschneiden" (or Adulteration) as have made mysterious the names "Port" and "Sherry"—to say nothing of some Rhenish and French wines. He is kind enough to tell the reader, however, that such words as "doctor" and "drug" belong to the manipulation of wines; that one sort is "made from husks," and that double adulteration is a process not unknown. We turn with pleasure to notice the wealth of articles belonging to the occupations of basket-makers, brick-makers, carpenters, carriage-builders, founders, glaziers, joiners, masons, puddlers, turners, and smiths of all descriptions. Here, as in the technology of cotton and woollen manufacture, and in all that belongs to railways, the dictionary is very rich. And in less extensive departments of industry no sparing of labour can be detected in articles given for the benefit of carvers, gilders, goldsmiths, jewellers, makers of artificial flowers, lace-makers, and those who practise the art here called "goffering." So the compiler, like others, spells the word, though it comes through the French *gaufre*, from the Mediaeval Latin noun, *gafrum*, a small figured cake or a wafer.

In the technology of the fine arts—excepting perhaps music—the dictionary bears examination, and some terms missed, when we looked for words connected with organ-building, are included in a brief appendix to Part III.—There are found in the vocabularies of working-men vague and versatile words as hard to translate as the Old English verb "frame," representing "fremman," and still living in the West Riding dialect. Such words, in German, are "Gang," "Hahn," "Stolle," and "Wolf," of which the numerous translations

here given are remarkably correct. The compiler forgets neither the "wolf" of English organ-tuners nor the "trou-de-loup" of French metallurgy.

"*Cui bono?*" is a question that will hardly be raised respecting a work like this. It will be a welcome boon to educated working-men in England, Germany, France, and America. It is nothing less than an endeavour to undo, for the world of industry, the separation caused by diversities of speech. With this book in his wallet, the German miner may come ready to work, and to understand the talk of his fellow-workmen in the mines of Cornwall or Durham, and, *vice versa*, the English workman will find here means of introduction to continental centres of industry. The prospect thus laid open of competition to be maintained, in every civilized land, against the greater part of the industrial world, is so vast that we must leave it to be contemplated by political economists and by advocates of co-operation. There is rapidly coming a time of hard fighting, more with heads than with hands, and one result is, we believe, already visible and clear. Such works as English publishers call "too extensive," or "unsafe," will be produced for us by German authors, compilers, and publishers, and will be widely and cheaply circulated in America as well as in England. This is a prospect hardly pleasant for English writers able and willing to do hard work. Nevertheless, great credit is due to the compiler of this great industrial lexicon, Dr. Tolhausen, translator in our Patent Office, and to (his brother?) Herr Louis Tolhausen, of Leipzig, who has revised the work. For all translators of technical books—German, French, and English—the lexicon is indispensable. It may serve as a general substitute for more than twenty more expensive but less comprehensive dictionaries of technology.

Historical Geology. By James Geikie, F.R.S. (W. & R. Chambers.)
Geology: its Influence on Modern Beliefs. By David Page, L.L.D. (Blackwood & Sons.)

We have grouped these two books together, because they relate to the same science, and also because they are rather interesting examples of two very different modes of treatment. The first is an example of that exactness which results from careful training, from great industry in the field, and from cautious and thoughtful method in the study. The second contains what is called "a popular sketch" of the "scientific teachings and economic bearings" of geology, and we find somewhat highly coloured statements of the great geological phenomena which are supposed to have produced the existing condition of our planet, and bold generalizations which are scarcely supported by the received facts of the science. Mr. James Geikie's book is a plain but clear description of the progress of geological inquiry, showing, within very narrow limits, the step-by-step process by which truths have been gathered together, and then, in brief, it instructs us in the method of drawing sound deductions from the phenomena observed.

Dr. Page's sketches or lectures—for there are two—are pleasant reading, rather than profitable studies. The first lecture, "On the Influence of Geology on Modern Beliefs," is a florid essay, penned for delivery before a mixed audience, to prove "the universal and incessant operation of natural law"; and the second lecture,—though bearing on every page the same title as the first,—is really a hasty and, therefore, unsatisfactory account of the "economic or industrial bearings of the science."

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Mr. James Geikie's 'Historical Geology' is intended to aid in the diffusion of exact knowledge, and we have not met with any elementary science manual, in which more information has been given in a clear, easily intelligible form, than in this little volume of less than hundred pages.

Dr. Page's "handy sketch" may prove interesting to the "many who can find a leisure hour for its perusal," but we doubt much if such readers will gain any knowledge of those great truths by which alone the influences of law can be established, and we, therefore, fear that such essays tend to the cultivation of those loose habits of mind which are destructive to thought, and promote only the very unsatisfactory system of bold assertion.

Field Geology. By W. Henry Penning, F.G.S. (Baillière & Co.)

The title does not correctly describe the character of this book. It is, in fact, a set of instructions to young students for drawing geological boundary lines. Mr. Penning has been for some time engaged on the Geological Survey of England and Wales; and if practical experience in geological surveying is required to fit a man for giving instruction in the process of producing a Geological Map, the author of this little work certainly should have obtained it. His book commences with chapters on Geological Mapping. The second part is devoted to the construction of Geological Sections; the third part to the determination of Rocks and Minerals, and the fourth to Palaeontology; this last division being chiefly produced by Mr. A. J. Jukes-Brown, a colleague of Mr. Penning's on the Geological Survey. The instructions given for the mechanical work of rock-surveying are generally clear, and the young geologist will be aided in his work if he carefully follows the rules laid down. The section on Lithology is not, to our thinking, so satisfactory as the other divisions of this book. There is a want of clearness, which looks much like imperfect acquaintance with that branch of mineralogical science. The quotations from authors, which are numerous, appear to be substituted for actual knowledge, and the instructions for chemical and blowpipe examinations are not satisfactorily complete. The chapters on Palaeontology are less objectionable, and are evidently the result of care. On the whole, although we cannot place this 'Field Geology' in the same rank as the books on similar subjects by Mr. Thomas Sopwith, we are pleased to find, on closing it, that we can recommend it as a useful aid to the young geological surveyor.

Petit Album de l'Age du Bronze de la Grande Bretagne. Par John Evans, F.R.S., &c. (Longmans & Co.)

THOSE who are familiar with Mr. Evans's fine work on the ancient stone implements of this country are eagerly looking forward to the appearance of the companion volume. Having dealt fully with the relics of the old stone-using period, the writer intends to devote his next volume to the illustration of that later epoch of civilization which is popularly known as the "Bronze Age." Remembering, however, that Mr. Evans has, until lately, held the presidency of two learned Societies—the Geological and the Numismatic—we fear that he has been too fully occupied to do much towards advancing his projected work. Yet it is known to his friends that he has had a large number of objects figured, with the view of illustrating his observations on the use of bronze. It was, therefore, a happy thought to utilize these engravings in the production of a small atlas, which should be a forerunner to the *opus magnum*, that we hope may some day see the light. The meeting of the International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology at Buda-Pest offered opportunity for discussing questions bearing upon the bronze age, and Mr. Evans has fitly seized this opportunity for issuing his little atlas. As the proceedings of the Congress are now always conducted in French, it was considered desirable to publish the work in that language. But, in

truth, it mattered but little what language was used, since the only letter-press consists of short descriptions of the figures. The Album is, in fact, a collection of twenty-six plates, comprising nearly 150 figures. It need hardly be said that the objects have been judiciously selected to illustrate the principal types of bronze weapons and implements found in this country; but, in addition to these common types, we find figures of several rare and even unique specimens. Readers of Mr. Evans's previous work on the stone age know that he aspires to a very high style of engraving. The figures before us are not showy lithographs, printed in bronze colours, such as we are familiar with in some continental works, but they are plain, well-executed wood-engravings, drawn carefully to scale, and representing the objects in judiciously-selected positions. In some cases, however, we should like to have had additional illustrations, in the shape of side-views or transverse sections, in order to obtain better notions of the objects which are represented. Fig. 1., Pl. II., for example, might have been illustrated in this way. The socketed celts are well shown by being represented in such a manner that we can look into the socket, and thus see the exact form of its margin. It is true that, so far as relates to the fine bronze implements of Ireland, we have already some excellent figures in the late Sir W. Wilde's Catalogue of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. But for the bronze implements of Great Britain, Mr. Evans's elegant little Album stands entirely by itself.

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

THE Social Science Association appears inclined to develop a new utility. This is to provide a stage for aspiring young noblemen of popular sympathies to appear upon in the character of social reformer, and on a scale suitable to their rank. The experiment was first made with Lord Rosebery at Glasgow, and after an interregnum of the more mature wisdom of Lord Aberdare at Brighton, it has been reverted to this year with the Marquis of Huntly at Liverpool. There is a good deal to be said in favour of such a practice. Lord Rosebery himself said much to justify it in his sprightly address two years ago, when he described the functions of a Social Science congress, as he regarded them, and the relation which the labours of its congress bears to the labours of the legislature and the labours of individual members to the labours of legislators. "The questions relating directly to the amelioration of our race rarely occupy the attention of Parliament," he pointed out, and it is eminently desirable to have another and independent tribunal to which to submit them. Now as the rising generation is, of course, the proper exponent of, as it is necessarily the most influenced by, the newest lights upon that subject, it is to it that we should reasonably look for encouragement and leadership. The late Lord Lytton somewhere said that youth has the great advantage over age, that it has not only all the accumulated experience of the latter to draw upon for inspiration and instruction, but that it has, beyond that, all its own keener and quicker perceptions as a guide. Thus, given an association occupying the position which Lord Rosebery discusses, and accepting as generally true the observation of Lord Lytton,—no vulgar authorities these—who so fitting for recurring presidents of Social Science congresses as those of our hereditary law-givers still in the plastic period of life which the latter celebrated, which he so often coveted after it had gone? Let the lesser lights, the vice-president and presidents of departments, be men of venerable aspect, of maturer years, and of maturer views, there will be ample scope for the utilities which they represent in the work of the sections and the proceedings of the meeting in detail. But the general, the president-in-chief, should be of another stamp. From him the initiative should come, upon him devolves the duty of upholding the traditions which have achieved for social science its right to a place among the sciences at all.

The Marquis of Huntly showed himself by no means unconscious of this duty in the earlier part of the address which he delivered at Liverpool last Wednesday. His first care was to state the sense in which he understood a Social Science congress to be a useful institution at all. It had "at once an ideal significance and a practical use." It is, "as it were, the symbol of one of the most honourable and distinctive characteristics of our day, a better, more helpful and hopeful state of feeling between all the orders and degrees of society." Of their practical utility he had no doubt. "For one thing they bring the worker in the cause of social reform and the student of social science face to face, and each can aid, instruct, and inspire the other. . . . For another thing, these congresses are useful in asserting the importance of social questions, in securing their discussion by well-informed and deeply interested men, and in keeping before the country the constant need of social reform and progress." Further, in a similar strain to Lord Rosebery, he remarks, "Politicians may be left to look after politics, but the questions here discussed are the peculiar property of no class or party, but the common concern of all." So far so well; the Marquis of Huntly could not but secure the approval of his listeners to such congenial remarks so felicitously stated; it is to be regretted that he did not maintain the same high tone throughout. Lord Aberdare, at Brighton, incurred censure for devoting himself almost solely to the work of one section—that of Repression of Crime; Lord Huntly quickly turned his attention almost exclusively to that of another—Education. Both presidents possibly forgot that there were departmental presidents to follow them, upon whose domains they were thus somewhat ruthlessly intruding. Of course, it is competent for the President of the Association, and, indeed, highly proper for him, to review, from the higher altitude of his position, the work more specially appertaining to any or all of the presidents of the departments, but if there is any meaning in the division of labour thus sanctioned, it means that the one should treat that as his sole concern which is but part of the concern of another. When this rule is not observed, the utility of the distribution of offices fails in practice.

On the other side of the question there is doubtless something to be said. Lord Huntly might perhaps plead that it was better for him to speak upon a subject with which he was well acquainted, than upon others with which his acquaintance was perhaps more limited. He might ask why there should not be two addresses, instead of one, on so deeply interesting a subject as education; he might ask to be judged by what he said, not by what he left unsaid. The answer, however, comes from himself. "The conditions of happiness are of two kinds—moral and material—those that regard man as an intellectual and moral, and those that regard him as an industrial and physical, being; and these are the very matters which we have met to consider." Not one of these, but both these. "The two sections devoted to Law and Education are concerned with the moral and mental problems suggested by society as it now exists in contrast with society as it ought to be. The two sections devoted to Health and Trade are occupied with questions that concern our physical and industrial well-being. Without due attention to the subjects that fall under these general divisions, we can never secure the sound mind in the sound body, which is the condition for the individual of a happy life, for the State of a contented and progressive existence." And then Lord Huntly proceeds to treat of one of them only, and that the one the least connected with his general theme, namely, the "moral and mental," and in no wise the "physical and industrial," problems, the "moral" in fact, as he describes it, as distinguished from the "material" condition of happiness. Surely the most cautious, not to say most aged, of preceding presidents have never surpassed this treatment of social science in caution, have never exhibited less of that youthful

hardhood of definition and exposition, which might not unfairly have been anticipated from the present one. The Social Science Association may not indeed regret its choice in this instance, but it is more than probable that it will approve it for somewhat different reasons than those which probably induced the selection at the outset.

For it is not to be denied that, on the subject of his choice, Lord Huntly expressed himself excellently well. His treatment of it was at once learned, large, and laborious. Commencing with a tribute to its general importance, he isolated "two points for more special consideration,—the education to be aimed at, and the system or method by which it is to be reached; the ideal we ought to have and strive after, and the means by which it is to be realized." Distinguishing between education and instruction, the former was "the leading out or evolution of the qualities necessary to manhood latent in every man. Instruction is the process of imparting the skill or knowledge needed to the successful practice of a trade or profession, the qualifying of a man to fill a particular office, or do a particular work." Hence education ought to be general, but instruction specific; "the one should make a man realize manhood, the other teach him to be a skilful workman or a prudent man of business." Quoting Plato and Milton in favour of these views, and proceeding to the consideration of how the ideal can be realized, he instanced statistics to prove that, while the advance in educational matters in this country has been considerable, a great deal yet remained to be done, as shown especially in the defective attendances of the children of school age at school, and in the tendency "to extinguish the teaching of higher subjects in the public schools." He continued:—"The point, however, which seems to call for the strongest criticism in our system of education is the classification of the scholars by standards. I will allow that it was necessary to check the tendency of teachers to trouble themselves more about the clever lads than the dunces; but is it wise to compel the teacher, for his own gain, to devote all his attention to working up the dunce to the necessary standard, in order that he may obtain the Parliamentary grant? The standards enable us to obtain useful statistics, and render the inspector's task, when visiting a school, more easy; but they have stamped out, to a certain degree, at least in an elementary school—that is, in ordinary country schools—the possibility of teachers devoting the same amount of time as hitherto to advanced pupils without increased assistance, because, however far advanced and well taught the few may be in a school, the result is as nothing when compared with the standard efficiency *en masse*; and it is with the work as done in the standards that Government inspectors have principally to do. On the efficiency of standard work the income of a school chiefly hinges, whilst the success of a teacher, and his fitness or unfitness for his office, are based thereon. That being so, there is laid upon the teachers a necessity to have the work of the standards done satisfactorily at any cost, very often at the expense of much time and drudgery—work of a mechanical nature. The Act, as required to be wrought out by the educational code, may be said to be a very hard one for stupid pupils, because they will and must be kept continually at the wheel so as to secure a *pass*, while the clever and intelligent pupil will be able, without much effort, to keep up and to shoot ahead of the requirements."

The conception of the old parish school system of Scotland was very superior, where the "boy of humble origin, whose parents' means were narrow and stinted, could be sent to the school in his parish, and there received an education, from the most rudimentary up to all the higher branches, which could qualify him to pass direct from it to the university." Of the Education Act of last session his lordship expressed high approval, but in forwarding by all means the primary education of the people we were not to forego the effort of spreading a good secondary education also. It is very important, too, that domestic economy should

be taught more systematically in girls' schools. As he would seek to have boys fitted for the spheres that they are to fill in life, so would he have girls fitted for the spheres that they are to fill. He concluded with an eloquent quotation from Mr. Ruskin, to the effect that education is "one of the noblest duties for the sake of posterity," an address which certainly will not much forward the cause of social science, but which just as certainly will in no way detract from the considerable reputation which his lordship already enjoys.

THE SUPPOSED INTRA-MERCURIAL PLANET.

THERE appears now to be no doubt that the supposed intra-mercurial planet seen by M. Weber, at Peckeloh, on the 4th of last April, was in reality a nearly round and well-defined solar spot (consisting of pure nucleus without penumbra). Observations of the solar spots are made regularly at Madrid, under the superintendence of V. Ventosa, the Astronomer there, the image of the sun, formed by the great Merz equatoreal of that observatory, being projected on a screen. On referring to those made on April 4th, Señor Ventosa found a small spot of the kind in question registered at about ten o'clock in the morning, as being 13° 39' from the centre of the solar disc; fourteen minutes afterwards (10 h. 24 min. A.M. Madrid time) it was found to be 13° 34' distant from the sun's centre, or 2° 27' from the limb. The dimensions of this spot were 4" by 2". It is evidently the same object with that seen by M. Weber, which must therefore give up all claim to be the supposed planet Vulcan, whilst the incident illustrates the risk of well-defined solar spots, insufficiently observed, being taken for a planet. Nevertheless, independently of the hackneyed observation of M. Lescarbault, some very remarkable phenomena by trustworthy observers are on record, one of which was published in a letter in last week's *Nature*, by Mr. F. A. R. Russell, of Pembroke Lodge, as having been seen by himself and others on Sunday, the 29th of January, 1860, when the sun arose near London in a fog, and a perfectly round black object was seen on its face, which, moving slowly across it, made its egress at about half-past nine o'clock. M. Le Verrier considers that his discussion of observations as being made in 1802, October 10; 1839, October 2; 1849, March 12; 1859, April 26; and 1862, March 20, by Fritsch, Decuppis, Sidebotham, Lescarbault, and Lummis respectively, shows that they may have been of one and the same object—in fact, of a planet at different transits over the sun's disc. If this was really the case, he hopes shortly to be able to determine its path sufficiently to predict at what times it will pass between us and the sun again. It should be remarked that the abandonment of the planetary character of Weber's object of April 4 took away all probability of such a body being seen on the sun in the early days of the present month; and, in fact, Le Verrier states that the planet, if such it be, whose path he is now discussing, will not cross the sun's disc in the months of September or October for several years.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BARON VON MÜLLER, Government Botanist in the colony of Victoria, in the second part of his "Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants," remarks that the vegetation of the great island of New Guinea presents important differences according to locality. Sundaic forms seem to predominate in the regions facing the Moluccas and Philippine Islands almost to the exclusion of others. In the south-east pure Australian forms, a Banksia, a phyllodinous acacia, and certain Eucalypts, appear among the Malayan vegetation. "How far," says Baron von Müller, "this somewhat enigmatic distribution of genera, and even of species thought to be endemically Australian, can be explained, perhaps, by geologic considerations we have as yet no means of ascertaining. Of still higher interest than this question remains the investigation of the subalpine and glacier flora throughout the wide chains of the lofty Papuan Mountains.

We are utterly unacquainted as yet with any plants from the Snowy Mountains there, though their comparison with the Alpine forms of vegetable life occurring in the icy highlands of Australia, explored by myself, of Tasmania and New Zealand, mainly described by Dr. Hooker, as well as their collation, on the other hand, with the largely peculiar vegetation of the higher zones of the Himalayan range, and of any Alpine mountains of the large islands in the Indian Archipelago, will likely lead to manifold philosophic contemplations, far more important for a comprehensive history of our globe than the absolute specific elucidation of the vegetative forms themselves."

The exploration of New Guinea by the missionaries and competent naturalists is still going on, and there is every reason to hope that important collections will be placed in the hands of Baron von Müller, and thus "that Australia may share in the honour of shedding extensively light on the vegetable products—some, perhaps, of undreamed value—which emanate solely from the secluded main haunts of the Birds of Paradise."

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will publish shortly a short sketch of Californian Life and Manners by Mr. Walter M. Fisher, one of the collaborateurs of Mr. Bancroft in his "Native Races of the Pacific." The book is the result of four years' residence in the country and of observation of its phenomena, natural, social, political, and religious.

Messrs. Tinsley Brothers will shortly publish the notes of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Arnold's ride through Persia.

SOCIETIES.

MICROSCOPICAL.—Oct. 4.—H. C. Sorby, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. T. Kitton was elected an Honorary Fellow. A paper was read by Mr. T. Palmer "On a New Method of Measuring and Recording Bands in Spectra," consisting of a photographed micrometer-scale shown in contact with the spectra in the field of view, and so arranged as to be capable of adjustment as required. The values indicated by the micrometer were by means of a chart and tables, engraved and prepared by the author, easily converted into wave-length measurements. The paper was illustrated by drawings and by the exhibition of the apparatus in the room.—A paper "On the Microscopical Structure of Amber," by Messrs. H. C. Sorby and P. J. Butler, was read by the President, who minutely described the appearances of numerous cavities found when thin sections of amber, properly prepared and mounted, were examined under the microscope in common and in polarized light.—A paper, by Dr. Hinds, "On a curious Effect in connexion with the Cells in the Leaves of *Hypericum Androsaemum*," was (owing to the lateness of the hour) taken as read.—A prepared section of "Brighton Pebble" was exhibited by Mr. Slack.

Science Gossip.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN & Co. have in the press a work by Prof. W. K. Parker, F.R.S., and Mr. G. T. Bettany, B.A., of Caius College, Cambridge, on the Morphology of the Skull, in which will be brought together for comparison descriptions of the remarkable succession of modifications through which the skull passes as developed in the principal types of vertebrate animals. The forms illustrated will be the sharks and rays, the salmon, the axolotl, the frog, the snake, the fowl, and the pig. A simple description of each form at the successive stages will be followed by a chapter dealing with theoretical questions, and summarizing the results of study. The work will be illustrated by numerous woodcuts.

The increase in the number of Members has obliged the Society of Biblical Archaeology to establish an office and reading-room at 33, Bloomsbury Street, W.C. The attendance will probably be at first on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 till 5 P.M. The meetings will take place as usual at 9, Conduit Street, W.

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pendix) of the *Memoirs* of the Italian Spectroscopic Society. It contains a continuation of solar spectroscopic observations by Father Secchi and by the editor, Prof. Tacchini; also some interesting experiments on the spectra of water and other substances by Signor Ricco.

PROF. F. ROSETTI describes, in *Les Mondes* for September 29, a modification of Crookes's Radiometer for registering the intensities of the solar radiations.

THE 'Report of Progress,' No. 3, of the Geological Survey of Victoria,—a handsome volume of upwards of 300 pages, with numerous illustrations,—has reached us. It contains several reports on the different gold-fields, and papers on the various methods of treating gold and auriferous pyrites. 'The Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines' for that colony accompanies the above, and the 'Mineral Statistics' of Victoria for 1875, which is full of valuable information as to the mineral products of that important colony. From it we learn that the value of the gold raised in Victoria since the first discovery of the gold-fields to December, 1875, amounted to 182,039,857l.

DR. GIORGIO PROSTER communicates to the Geological Society of Italy some useful notes on the mineralogy of the island of Elba. These are published in *Bulletino* Nos. 7 and 8 *R. Comitato Geologico d'Italia* for August.

DR. HERBERT W. C. TWEDDLE communicates to the *Journal* of the Franklin Institute his discovery of a new substance, "Petrozene," as a product of the dry distillation of the residuum from petroleum. It exists in crystals of thin plates of a transparent uranium-green colour.

FINE ARTS

DORE'S TWO GREAT WORKS, 'CHRIST LEAVING the PRETORIUM,' and 'CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM' (the latter just completed), each 31 by 22 feet, with 'Dream of Pilate's Wife,' 'Christian Martyrs,' 'Night of the Crucifixion,' 'House of Capaphas,' &c., at the DORE GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street. Daily, Ten to Six.—1s.

Die Ausgrabungen zu Olympia. I. Uebersicht der Arbeiten und Funde vom Winter und Frühjahr, 1875-1876. Von E. Curtius, F. Adler und G. Hirschfeld. 33 Tafeln. (Berlin, Ernst Wasmuth.)

(First Notice)

UNDER the above title, the Directors of the excavations undertaken by the German Empire at Olympia have given to the world photographs of the important results obtained during the first winter's work. The letter-press by which they are accompanied is confined to a brief account of the actual facts. A final and scientific estimate of the value of the "finds" is reserved for a more extensive publication, and, indeed, will be possible only after the completion of the excavations.

The names on the title-page are those of the men who had most to do with the undertaking. For twenty years an excavation of the old Olympia had been a favourite idea with Prof. E. Curtius. For a long time circumstances prevented the execution of the scheme, but at last, after the establishment of German Unity, the German Crown Prince, as Patron of the Museum, took the matter up, and the Emperor also lent his aid. The Reichstag passed a preliminary vote of 57,000 thalers, and at length, in April, 1874, a treaty was concluded with Greece, by which the German government, in the most unselfish manner, guaranteed to the Greeks the ownership of all objects found, and undertook to pay all expenses, reserving to itself only an exclusive right for five years of taking casts and copies of the works of art.

In England, which was the first nation to lead the way to the successful prosecution of such expeditions, it is not necessary to dwell on the signal importance of such excavations. Only every argument which has been urged in favour of such enterprises applies with double or treble force to this one. Firstly, the site chosen is one which was peculiarly the centre of Greek life, the Pantheon and National Museum of all Hellas. Secondly, the ground has this advantage, that no town has ever sprung up on the ruins, destroyed them and built over them. Finally, we have, from the descriptions of Pausanias, a pretty accurate knowledge of Olympia and its works of art. Deprived of Pausanias's account, the excavator would be without compass and rudder. But for the Greek writer's descriptions, scanty and often erroneous though they be, we should be unable to arrange in a complete picture the scattered parts of the works that have been found, and they would be merely incomprehensible fragments.

In reality the success of the first excavations has been most signal, as the casts now exhibited in the Royal Museum at Berlin show in a striking way. An accurate study of the plaster casts, for which every facility is offered, enables us to add much to the information given by Pausanias. That will be an advantage, as the exhibition contains, besides the smaller fragments, many objects which could not be represented in the pamphlet I am reviewing; and besides, in the course of modelling, many pieces were found to fit together, and thereby much has been gained towards the completion and understanding of the figures.

To begin with the site of the excavations. The panorama on Plates i.-iii. shows the character of the Valley of Olympia. We see the white Alpheus flowing in a broad stream along its flat bed, and its waters divided into several channels, the low wooded hill of Olympus, with the conical hill of Cronius, which looks like a wart in the plain, the Cladeus, which hurries down a narrower channel to join the Alpheus: finally, on the height, the village of Druva, in which the peasants have fixed their dwellings, who now cultivate vines and barley in the flat ground of Olympia. Here, also, the members of the German expedition have sought refuge from the swamps and fevers of the valley, so often inundated by the Alpheus, the same stream that, in consequence of some great natural catastrophe, has gradually buried the Altis of Olympia under a stratum, five metres deep, of clay and sand. In this way it has been kind enough to preserve for us what pillage, fire, and earthquake had left of the temples, altars, and treasures, of the offerings and statues of victors in the holy domain of Olympian Zeus.

Within this domain, which is figured on Plate xxxiii., between Mount Olympus and Alpheus on the north and south, between Cladeus and the heights of Pisa on the west and east, the excavations were begun in the beginning of October of last year, in the neighbourhood of the Temple of Zeus, the position of which was already known in the last century. This ground yielded to the French expedition of 1829 valuable spoil, in the shape of metopes and fragments of sculpture, now in the Louvre. First, the temple, the east front of which is about thirty

metres above the level of the Alpheus, was enclosed by four trenches, forming a parallelogram, and two of these were carried down to the channel of the Alpheus, and subsequently a prolongation was made to the Cladeus also. Then the removal of the earth before the south and east sides of the temple was begun, and at length, towards the close of the period of excavation, it became possible to open up the inner area of the temple. In doing this the beautiful Atlas metope (Plate xxvi.) was laid bare on the same spot on which it had originally fallen. Unfortunately this has been the case with very few of the other "finds." The excavations have shown that, in the Byzantine period, a race dwelt on the foundations of the temple, which constructed the foundations of its wretched mud huts out of fragments of sculpture and remains of buildings, loosely luckily, that is, without using mortar. After the removal of these later buildings, which will be undertaken this winter, it is to be hoped that many valuable discoveries may yet be made. Only the lighter and more movable pieces seem to have been used, at least the remains of the porticos which surrounded the temple lie almost wholly untouched, just as they fell after an earthquake, and the pillars could pretty nearly be set up again. Plate vi. shows how the drums of the columns of the native Poros limestone still lie in rows near their mighty Doric capitals. To be sure the square stones of the walls have mostly disappeared. However, the divisions of the interior can still, as the plan on page 18 shows, be clearly recognized, even down to the traces of the flights of wooden steps which led to the upper galleries supported on pillars, and some remains of the base which once supported the chryselephantine statue by Phidias that is hopelessly lost.

Having given this short sketch of the site, let us now turn to the statues discovered, and first to the gem of the collection, the Victory of Paeonius, which was the first object brought to light by the excavations. Unfortunately essential portions of this beautiful figure are, as the pictures on Plates ix.-xii. show, still wanting, the head, the wings, both arms, and the greater part of the left leg. Still, one can clearly discern the admirable and genial *motif* of the attitude, the boldness of which, especially when viewed in profile, is surprisingly clear. The artist has depicted the moment in which the goddess swoops down from the heights of Olympus. Perhaps this was further indicated by the peculiar pedestal, which seems to have represented a crag, from which, one sees not exactly how, the front part of a bird, perhaps an eagle, became visible. Obviously, colouring originally distinguished the bird clearly from the pedestal. Traces of colour are said to have been found on the garment of the goddess.

But, whatever opinion people may form about the pedestal, the downward sweep is magnificently expressed in the limbs and the attitude of the goddess. She had her wings fully spread out, the left arm obviously lifted up, and bearing a fillet or garland; the right, which probably bore a herald's wand, hung by her side. The left leg is advanced. The drapery, which is moved by the same mighty impetus that pervades the attitude of the figure, is driven back, as if by the blast of

a storm, and clings closely to the lovely limbs of the goddess, and is parted by the left leg. The left breast is bare.

Technically speaking, this figure is a masterpiece, for it is connected with the pedestal only by the right leg, and the drapery that flows behind it; while, with this exception, the whole body is thrown forward in the boldest manner. The mantle, which, as some fragments show, swelled like a bow in a wide circle from the waist to the pedestal, can have contributed but little to give support to the figure.

The execution is characterized by a freedom and freshness which not only equals, but seems also closely allied to, that shown in the best sculptures of the Parthenon. If the work is compared with, for example, the so-called Iris of the east pediment of the Parthenon, it will be impossible not to recognize an advance. In order to realize the full force of this figure it must be placed upon its high pedestal, consisting of three-cornered blocks, rising like steps. In the Berlin Museum, Prof. Adler has been able to restore this pedestal by aid of the blocks that have been discovered. His restoration is correct in the main, although the architectonic form of the uppermost block cannot be ascertained, and the height cannot be definitely settled, as some of the blocks are wanting. So much, however, is certain—that the pedestal was at least five mètres high, and probably six.

If one only places the figure so that the left foot comes in advance of the front point of the pedestal, and the drapery, as it flies back, fills the broad side turned to the rear—in the Berlin Museum, in deference to the inscription, another attitude has been wrongly adopted,—one obtains a pose of astonishing daring, which thoroughly suits the sculptor's conception, and lifts high in the air the bold figure of the lightly flying goddess. In fact, she must have towered far above the eastern wall of the Altis, of which supposed traces have been found close behind her (cf. Plate xxxiii, *a* and *b*). Any one who has seen how much the proportions of the Nike gain by being placed thus on high, how much more elegant and light the figure appears, how the flow of the lines improves, will be filled with the highest admiration for the art with which the ancients adapted the proportions of their statues to their positions.

On one side of this three-cornered pedestal was found engraved an inscription which was placed there in the reign of Tiberius. It contains a verdict, known also from the Annals of Tacitus, pronounced by the Milesians upon a boundary dispute between the Messenians and Lacedæmonians. As the decision was favourable to the Messenians, they inscribed it on the foot of the memorial at Olympia, which was intended to commemorate a glorious deed of their ancestors; for an earlier inscription, reproduced on Plate xxxii, No. 1, shows that the statue was an offering of the Messenians, settled in Naupactus after the third Messenian war, and their fellow townsmen. The inscription has been fully commented on by Curtius in the *Archæologische Zeitung*. It tells us that Messenians and Naupactians dedicated this statue to the Olympian Zeus as a tenth of the booty they took "from their enemies." Who these enemies were—whose name, contrary to the usual practice of such

dedicatory inscriptions, is not given—was a disputed point, even in antiquity. The various conjectures which were formed may be read in Pausanias, V. 26. 1, and his account is strikingly confirmed by the discovery. The second part of the inscription is more important to us, which tells that "Pæonius of Mende made this work, and in the designs for the ornaments of the gables of the temple he won."

Thanks to this inscription, we obtain not only a date for our Nike, which was wrought after the completion of the pediments, therefore in the last quarter of the fifth century before the Christian era; but also the account of Pausanias, that Pæonius was the sculptor of the groups of the eastern pediment, is quite confirmed, and is supplemented by the interesting addition, which can only mean that he was with his sculptures successful against Alcamenes, the pupil of Phidias, who filled the other pediment with his Battle of the Centaurs. Of these pediment groups, of which Pæonius boasts in the inscription, considerable remains have come to light, in the explanation of which the words of Pausanias are of the greatest assistance.

Pausanias tells us that in the east pediment were represented the preparations for the celebrated mythical race between Pelops and Oenomaus, with which later legends connected the origin of the Olympian games. The middle of the pediment was occupied by the statue of Zeus, the god to whom the temple was dedicated. Near him stood, on the one side, Pelops and his bride Hippodameia; on the other, Oenomaus, with his wife Sterope. Perhaps, from this quiet grouping of the chief actors, one at each side of the statue of the god, it may be inferred that the moment represented was that in which they swore to the agreement which secured to Pelops, in case of victory, the beautiful Hippodameia. Behind the heroes, at the side, were placed their charioteers, Sphaerus or Cillas and Myrtilus, each sitting in front of his four horses, and behind each of them two men, grooms according to Pausanias, who busied themselves with the horses. Finally, as the pediment grew narrow, the two river gods of the Olympian Vale, Cladæus, as Pausanias tells us, on the side of Oenomaus, Alpheus on the side of Pelops.

Of all these figures, those of the river gods are the most easily distinguishable in the reclining torso on Plate xxii, and the beautifully placed figure, which, as was discovered by me in arranging the casts in the Berlin Museum, can be put together from the fragments on Plate xxix, and the upper part on Plate xxxii, which had hitherto passed for a part of the statue of one of the grooms. GEORG TREU.

NOTES FROM ROME.

To return to the subject of demolitions, I may mention that next winter two rectangular towers are to be destroyed that flank the Porta del Popolo. The lower part of these two towers, built by Sixtus the Fourth almost a century before the construction of the gate itself, is encrusted with blocks of marble, belonging to a gigantic mausoleum, which occupied the site now filled by the church of S. Maria dei Miracoli, on the Piazza del Popolo. The name of the builder of the mausoleum is unknown, but in magnificence and size it rivalled the mausoleum of Augustus. Ficoroni assures us that at the beginning of the last century, after an excavation made round the

left tower, there were discovered on one of the blocks of marble the cubital letters . . . IT AD VS . . . , probably *exstruxit ad usum*. It is to be hoped, therefore, that on the demolition of the towers some more parts may be found of this inscription, which would enable us to solve a topographical problem of great importance, and decide on the worth of the hypothesis generally received that the mausoleum belonged to Sulla the Dictator.

A singular chapter in the monumental history of Rome could be written, were the causes, more or less problematical, of the singular dispersion of several classes of monuments studied. It is known, for instance, that the *Acta Arvalium*, or *Annals of the Arval College*, were engraved on the base of the temple of the Dea Dia, of which the remains are to be seen still at the Vigna Ceccarelli, five miles from Rome. Yet there is not a spot in the interior of the city or in the suburbs which has not yielded fragments of the *Acta Arvalium*. They have been found in the Catacombs of Callixtus, in those of Generosa, in the Lateran, in the Vatican, in the vineyards that line the road to Fiumicino, and elsewhere. When, in 1870, the pavement of the Basilica of S. Maria in Trastevere, was reconstructed, there was found a fragment of the monumental inscription of the *Macellum Liviae*, copied in the eighth century, by the Anonymous of Einsiedeln, near the church of S. Vito on the Esquiline. The point has been recalled to my mind by a recent occurrence. In January, 1873, while walking in the Via di Porta S. Lorenzo, where the foundations of a new house were being dug, I picked up the bone handle of a pocket-knife which had belonged to a driver (*agitator*) of the Circus. Upon one side of the handle were cut with much skill the cap of the driver, whip, and his name, *EVYPREPES*; on the other side, the head of the successful horse and his name, *NEREO*; and a palm branch, the symbol of victory. How this knife came there, almost on the surface of the ground, in a place remote from every habitation, nobody could explain. But the other day there was found in another quarter of the city another knife-handle, exactly similar to the first, and adorned in the very same fashion. Only the name of the horse is changed, and instead of *Nereus* we have *EVYMO*. Little did the humble driver dream that, seventeen hundred years after his death (the palæography is that of the second century), the scientific world would be occupying itself with his name and exploits, and the names of his favourite horses.

A very curious discovery in sacred archaeology has just been made in the Basilica of S. Pietro in Vinculis. According to the tradition of the Roman Church, the mortal remains of the Seven Maccabean Brothers were transported from Judea to Rome, and buried before the high altar of the Basilica Eudoxiana. At the end of August, the masons employed in erecting a new confessional, where the Vincula, or chains of St. Peter, are supposed to be deposited, discovered a marble sarcophagus, adorned with Christian bas-reliefs, and divided into seven distinct coffins. In each compartment were found a few handfuls of black ashes. The sarcophagus was lying among the remains, well preserved, of a Roman bath, with its *hypocaustum*, its pavement, and its seats formerly encrusted with marble. There were found at the same time two plates of lead, the one in the inside of the sarcophagus, the other in the *hypocaustum*, on which was inscribed a memorandum of the translation of the seven brothers from Palestine to Rome. The palæography of the inscriptions is of the sixteenth century.

I cannot conclude without once more protesting against the prevailing mania for spoiling our finest ecclesiastical monuments by new constructions and alterations. It seems not to be thought enough to destroy the apse of the Lateran, for a raid has been made on the splendid church of S. Pietro in Vinculis. The admirable harmony of its proportions is to be marred by a tabernacle of some kind or another such as never existed there, and never ought to. And all this before the eyes of the Moses of Michelangelo!

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XUM

A pleasant piece of news for lovers of ancient Latiun. On the 17th of September excavations were commenced in the area of the Federal Temple of Jupiter, on the summit of Monte Cavo. The works were carried on at the expense of the German Government. I do not know what the ghost of the Cardinal of York, the destroyer of the most venerable temple of antiquity, will think of such proceedings. The excavations are made with a view to discovering what is wanting of the Fasti Triumphales. There will of course also be an opportunity of increasing our topographical knowledge; for instance, of learning more about the orientation of the sanctuary, the extent of the Temenus, and the direction of the ancient Triumphant Way, which led from the Via Appia to the summit of the mountain.

R. LANCIANI.

Fine-Art Gossip.

MR. ALMA TADEMA has been closely occupied of late, and his pictures, which, of course, we forbear to criticize, may be described, for the moment, briefly as follows. A garden scene, comprising figures of a lady and child, a nurse entering the company, with abundant foliage and flowers in brilliant hues. Four small pictures, the materials of which, with groups of figures and landscapes, illustrate the seasons by means of appropriate arrangements of colour, a picture to each season. A life-size, full-faced bust-portrait of Mrs. Tadema, painted in Rome. 'The Bath,' a small work: four women in a marble bath; one of whom turns her back to a jet of water falling from a bronze mask; the other three women are at play in the water; an attendant approaches with towels: on our left a group of females recline and chat. A picture, representing a damsel of ancient Rome and her father conversing about the marriage of the lady, who, holds a mass of appropriate flowers, and looking down and smiling demurely. She stands by the couch where her parent reclines, *cylia* in hand, and evidently satisfied with the present liquor and the approaching match.

THE third volume of the Catalogue of English Satirical Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, prepared by Mr. F. G. Stephens, and embracing a number of descriptions by the late Mr. E. Hawkins, Keeper of the Antiquities, F.R.S., is nearly complete, and will shortly be presented to the Trustees. It comprises satires dating from 1734 to 1760, and includes nearly the whole of the works of Hogarth, with exhaustive and complete analyses and elucidations of about fifteen hundred examples, dealing with political affairs from just before the downfall of Walpole to the rise of Pitt and Fox, and with social, personal, and humorous matters. This volume is much larger than either of the previous ones, so that, to say nothing of other impediments, it has occupied a longer time in preparation.

IN demolishing an old house for the formation of the new Boulevard Henri Quatre, Paris, a "magnifique" bas-relief, representing Hell, has been discovered; it is said to be a late fourteenth-century work: a statue of the Virgin is placed above a monstrous figure at the entrance of the infernal regions, a chained Satan, or Sataness, is seated on a throne; figures of a man and woman suspended by their tongues represent luxury; Judas appears according to the story of his death; little demon and other figures occur with the above. The sculpture is much damaged.

THE name of the Eugène Fromentin has been given to a street at La Rochelle, the painter's birthplace. Rarely, indeed, is such a thing as this done in England; a square in Chelsea and a road in Bow are, so far as we recollect, the only instances in which the Bumbledom of London has shown knowledge of Shakspeare or the author of 'Sartor Resartus,' and the class they represent.

THE donations of M. de la Salle to the Louvre, lately announced in these columns, are now displayed in the Salle de Michel-Ange.

THE lithographer, whose death in Milan we

recorded last week, was named *Fano*, not "Fandi."

THE huge and certainly meritorious picture by M. B. Constant, which occupied so conspicuous a place in one of the larger halls of the East Salon, and represented so dramatically and picturesquely the victorious entrance of Mahomed II. to Constantinople, has been deposited in the Musée de Toulouse.

OUR Naples Correspondent writes, under the date Oct. 6th:—"Last Sunday there were festivities in the Arenella, a suburb of Naples. In a small house, still existing in that quarter, was born, on the 20th of June, 1615, the great Neapolitan painter and poet, Salvator Rosa, and the artists of Naples on Sunday affixed a commemorative stone to the façade of the building. After the ceremony there was what is here called a banquet, at which Palizzi, the distinguished animal painter, presided, being supported on the right by the Syndic, the Duke San Donato, and on the left by the Intendente of the Royal Household. About 108 persons, principally artists, sat down to the entertainment, which was enlivened by toasts and speeches, especially from Cav. Salazar, Inspector of Painting in the Museum, which gave some interesting facts of his history. Remembered not less as patriot than as a painter and a poet, Salvator Rosa began life by struggling against the Spaniards, who then occupied the country. Together with several other ardent youths, he formed the Society known as the Società della Morte. The revolution of Masaniello was ennobled yet more by the efforts of that band who, at the same time, wielded the sword of the soldier and the brush of the painter. The struggle was, however, in vain, and Salvator fled to Rome, where he made the acquaintance of a well-known satirical poet, Antonio Abati, and was surprised to find that he himself possessed the genius of a poet. On Sunday Palizzi, the president, announced the existence of a manuscript poem of Salvator Rosa, hitherto inedited. Of this he had caused 110 copies to be printed, one of which was presented to each of the guests. The manuscript itself was afterwards handed round for the inspection of the company."

MUSIC

BRISTOL MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THE second musical festival at Bristol, in aid of the Royal Infirmary and the General Hospital, will be held next week in the Colston Hall, under the patronage of Her Majesty, with the Duke of Beaufort, K.G., as President. In the *Athenæum* of September 27, 1873, ante No. 2396, the origin of this gathering of the amateurs of Gloucestershire and Somersetshire was ascribed to the growth of the choral societies in the provinces, and to the progress music was making generally in the several counties. The formation of a festival choir at Bristol, with Mr. A. Stone as chorus-master, has enabled an influential committee, the hon. secretary of which, for 1876, is the Rev. Precentor Hey, to establish triennial musical meetings, with every prospect of their permanent prosperity. These festivals, although they may not be altogether attractive to amateurs of the metropolis, exercise a most wholesome influence on art in the country. The subscribers to the local choirs are naturally anxious to have their abilities tested by the co-operation of an orchestra of practised players, and of principals from whom refined vocalization can be heard, as a guide and incentive to study and practice. The success of the meeting of 1873 is likely to be repeated on a larger scale. Guarantors for the outlay have readily been found; and the sale of tickets is much in excess of what it was at the corresponding period in 1873.

MR. CHARLES HALLÉ'S Manchester band of eighty performers is again engaged. The solo singers include the names of Mdlle. Tietjens, Mdlle. Albani, and Madame Edith Wynne, sopranos; Madame

Patey and Madame Trebelli-Bettini, contraltos; Messrs. Lloyd, H. Kearton, and Cummings, tenors; Messrs. Maybrick and H. Pope and Herr Behrens, basses. The week's scheme is thus arranged:—Monday morning and evening, the general rehearsal of the sacred and secular music; Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' on Tuesday; Handel's 'Israel in Egypt' on Wednesday; Spohr's 'Fall of Babylon' and Beethoven's 'Engedi' ('Mount of Olives') on Thursday; and the 'Messiah' of Handel, of course, on Friday. There is one important innovation, namely, that the sacred works will not be confined to the mornings, for on the Tuesday evening Signor Verdi's Requiem Mass will be performed, and Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise' will be given at the third and last evening concert on Thursday. It remains to be seen whether the diminution in the number of secular pieces in the miscellaneous selections will be acceptable, for amateurs in the country, who are not familiar with the stock solos of the leading vocalists, look forward to hear the excerpts from operas and the specimens of the Lied and the ballad with the greatest curiosity and interest.

The oratorio of Spohr and the mass of Signor Verdi may be regarded as quasi-novelties; the first-mentioned work is rarely given now by the Sacred Harmonic Society, and Verdi's Requiem has been only heard in London at the Royal Albert Hall concerts, under the composer's direction.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

MR. S. ARTHUR CHAPPELL, the Director of the Monday Popular Concerts, has issued a short prospectus of his present arrangements for the season 1876-7, which will be commenced on the 6th of November, and will terminate on the 26th of March, 1877. Besides the ordinary Monday Concerts, there will be seventeen Saturday afternoon performances, beginning on the 11th of November, and ending on the 24th of March, 1877. The staff for the whole series will include Sir Julius Benedict or Mr. Zerbini as accompanist; Signor Piatti, violoncello; Herr L. Ries, second violin; Herr L. Straus or Mr. Zerbini, viola; Mr. Lazarus, clarinet; Mr. J. Winterbottom, bassoon; Mr. Wendland, French horn, and Mr. Reynolds, double bass. Madame Norman Néruda will appear at four Monday and four Saturday concerts; Herr Straus will be first violin at two Monday and two Saturday concerts; Miss Agnes Zimmerman will be the pianist at the opening concerts of the 6th and 11th of November, and Mr. Halle is engaged for two Monday and two Saturday performances. On the 11th of November, Mr. Sims Reeves will be the vocalist. After Christmas, the three German pianists, Madame Schumann, Mdlle. Marie Krebs and Herr Krebs, and Mr. Franklin Taylor and Herr Joachim, will appear. It is probable that the Director, according to his custom, will take advantage of the presence in London of other artists of continental repute during the fashionable season. A guarantee that classical chamber compositions of the first class will be given, during the series of concerts, is to be found in the splendid catalogue of works which have been produced from the 14th of February, 1859, to the 10th of April of this year. The publication of this list is well timed, for, if highly creditable to the management, it supplies also evidence of the improvement in public taste and judgment. The *répertoire* is most rich and varied, for it includes the names of J. S. Bach (*the* Bach), W. Friedmann Bach, Beethoven, Boccherini, Cherubini, Chopin, Clementi, Corelli, Dussek, Handel, Haydn, Hummel, Marcello, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Molique, Onslow, Scarlatti, Schubert, Schumann, Spohr, Tartini, Weber, Wotl, Ernst, Sterndale Bennett, &c. Nor have the living composers been neglected, for the productions of Herren Brahms, Raff, Grieg, Gernsheim, Bariel, Hiller, S. Heller, Rheinberger, Rubinstein, Joachim, Saint-Saëns, G. Macfarren, H. Smart, Vieuxtemps, &c., have been included in the schemes. Large as the collection of chamber gems is, the works of the great writers for stringed and wind instruments, as well as for the piano-forte, have not yet been exhausted. The artistic

and financial successes of these concerts have been great, because the original scheme has been rigidly adhered to. An effort has always been made to secure the co-operation of the most finished and accomplished executants to interpret compositions of the highest order, and an undertaking which began as a speculation has become an institution. In the state of music in this country when the Monday Popular Concerts were first started, it was impossible to predict that the appeal to the masses to listen to what is termed severe music by the frivolous, and classical by the connoisseurs, would be responded to with alacrity and enthusiasm. The signal success attained is due to conscientious and consistent management, and to combining the masterpieces of the past with the novelties of the present. The renewal of these excellent entertainments is one of the events of the season, and so long as the policy of introducing works of the highest order is persevered in, the Monday Concerts will deserve their distinctive title.

HERR WAGNER'S ORCHESTRAL MUSIC.

OUT of ten pieces that figured in the programme of the Crystal Palace Saturday Afternoon Concert of the 7th inst., four were instrumental items from Herr Wagner's operas, and there was one vocal excerpt from 'Lohengrin,' 'Elsa's Dream,' sung by Fräulein S. Löwe. The Overture to 'Rienzi' and the Introduction to 'Lohengrin' had been performed at previous concerts; but the Dead March of Siegfried from the 'Götterdämmerung,' and the Festival March, composed for the Philadelphia Centennial Celebration, were introduced for the first time. The musical illustration of the procession of hunters who carry the shield on which the body of Siegfried is placed after his assassination by Hagen (son of Alberich, the robber of the Rheingold) is, perhaps, the finest orchestral number in the 'Ring des Nibelungen.' It is so thoroughly dramatic and distinctive that no scenic accessories are required to make the March understood in any concert-hall, and even to hearers unacquainted with the libretto of the 'Götterdämmerung' the music is highly suggestive of a warrior's death. It is, of course, simply absurd to assert that this impressive march is equal to that in the 'Eroica' symphony of Beethoven; but it is more intensely interesting and suggestive than the awful march in Halévy's 'Juive,' when Rachel and her father are about to be executed, and it is more solemn and imposing than the march by Rossini in the 'Gazza Ladra,' when poor Ninetta is being led to the scaffold for a robbery committed by a magpie. Siegfried meets his death whilst gazing on two ravens, Hagen stabbing him in the back with a spear; and the last words of the hero are a blessing for Brünnhilde (his aunt and wife), who has told Hagen that Siegfried is only vulnerable in the back, which he has never shown to any foe. The March of Siegfried is a curious refutation of the theory of the composer that his music must be regarded as absolutely connected with the stage drama. The effect of the march is quite as solemn and touching as if the body of Siegfried was being carried up the heights. Like the two Dead Marches of Handel, this by Wagner is applicable to any deceased hero or warrior, despite the ingenuity displayed by the composer in reproducing previous *Leitmotiv* or leading subjects from various parts of the Prologue and the three operas. The genius of Herr Wagner in his orchestration is too conspicuous to need the fulsome and nonsensical eulogies which have been written about this "iteration of themes," as if it had been a discovery or invention on the part of the composer, whereas the method (or trick, as some purists would call it) existed long before Wagner was born; and we may mention that our own musician, Prof. G. A. Macfarren, before the first work of Wagner, employed this system of reproducing *Motive*—the very essence of symphonic writing is in the use of iteration or repeats. In the notices of the Bayreuth "Bühnenfestspiel" given in the *Athenæum*, reference was made to the singular pamphlet, entitled "Thematicher

Leitfaden durch die Musik zu Rich. Wagners Festspiel 'Der Ring des Nibelungen,' by Herr Hans von Wolzogen, who has ninety themes from the 'Rheingold,' 'Walküre,' 'Siegfried,' and 'Götterdämmerung,' also specifying the particular pages of the score where the subjects are reiterated. In the analysis, signed E. P., of the Saturday programme, trouble has been taken to cite eleven themes in the March as keys to the composer's intentions. These explanations were unnecessary for those acquainted with the Nibelungen, and to those who did not know the works they were incomprehensible. Once more it must be repeated that Wagner's ability and skill do not require any exaggerated or inflated panegyric. The March is magnificent, and is quite independently of its origin in the stage situation; its merits exact no reference to the opera, nor to the effect it produced at Bayreuth with the "moonbeams glistening on the helms of the warriors." All that is moonshine. The March tells, because, in the mind's eye, the funeral of a hero is passing, the sounds are those of death, the tones are those of anguish; and the instrumentation is so varied—so rich in its colouring, so grand, so imposing, and above all so soul-stirring, that the ear alone is required to appreciate its beauties. Even when it is played on the pianoforte, as transcribed by Herr Karl Klindworth, it is utterly impossible to be insensitive to its pathos and power. The March was enthusiastically encored. As for the Centennial March in G major, written to order, it is quite unworthy of Herr Wagner, and no surprise can be felt at the severe notices the work has received in America and in Germany; it is a commonplace theme of three notes, treated as a symphonic exercise, in which the brass instruments are heavily taxed; it is scored for one bass tuba, three trombones, four bassoons (one contra-fagotto), four horns, three trumpets, one bass trumpet, three kettle-drums, great and military drums, cymbals, gong, and triangle, three flutes, three oboes, three clarionets, besides the strings. Herr Wagner must have had a low notion of American taste and judgment when he sent such a score; he certainly was not inspired by the lines of Goethe which he has placed as a motto at the head of the score, that the right to freedom and to life can only be earned by him who daily is compelled to conquer them. The thematic triplet which is heard through the March is commonplace; it has not the breadth and dignity of a stately or heroic movement, and in the development shows labour. Indeed, the whole composition is vague and boisterous, and there is no exciting subject to dwell upon.

Haydn's Military Symphony in G, one of the clearest, brightest, and most melodious of the Salomon set of twelve symphonies, was played to perfection under Mr. Manns's direction. Mr. G. A. Clinton, in a concertino in C minor, for clarinet and orchestra, by Weber, displayed delicacy and purity of tone, besides executive facility; the composer was partial to the instrument: it is not a pretentious work in the *tutus*, but it is charming for the soloist. Mr. Shakespeare, the tenor, and Fräulein Löwe, sang airs, but neither vocalist selected songs calculated to suit his or her style.

Musical Gossip.

SINCE the audit of the accounts of the late Three Choir Festival at Hereford, the Committee of Management have been able to return the deposit of 5/- to each steward, which served as a guarantee to meet any deficit. The Cathedral collections reached the sum of £1,336/- for the diocesan charities independently of the amount arising from the profits of the concerts. At a meeting of the stewards, on the 7th inst., votes of thanks were passed unanimously to the Bishop and the Dean and Chapter, for the effective aid and countenance they afforded to the Festival and for their hospitality, and also to the honorary secretary and conductor (Mr. Townshend Smith, the organist of the Cathedral), "for his indefatigable exertions in making arrangements for the Festival, and bringing it to its unprecedentedly successful issue." The Committee was reappointed,

and the Stewards of 1876 were invited to serve for the next meeting at Hereford, in 1879. The next Three Choir Festival will be at Gloucester, next year, and surely the Dean and Chapter of Worcester will no longer defy public opinion in the three counties.

MADAME ARABELLA GODDARD gave a pianoforte recital in St. James's Hall last Thursday, too late for notice in our present issue. The last appearance of the fair pianist in London before the 12th inst. was on the 11th of February, 1873, prior to her professional tour round the world.

AN ORCHESTRAL work, by M. Gevaert, the Principal of the Brussels Conservatoire, will be played at the Crystal Palace Concert this afternoon. Herr Wilhelmj will introduce, for the first time, a Violin Concerto by Hegan.

THE Michaelmas term of the South Kensington National Training School for Music commenced with seventy-one scholars. On the 11th inst., Herr Ernst Pauer began his lectures on the *Aesthetics of Music*, in the west theatre of the Royal Albert Hall. On the 18th inst., a meeting will be held at Rhyl, North Wales, to promote the foundation of scholarships in the northern counties of the Principality, the Duke of Westminster, K.G., in the chair. Representatives of the Society of Arts and of the Committee of the School will address the meeting.

THE statement that Madame Adelina Patti had accepted an engagement to create the principal part in M. Gounod's new opera, 'Polyeucte,' to be produced during the Exhibition year at the Grand Opéra in Paris (1878), has no foundation. The lady will, after all, fulfil her engagement at Moscow and at St. Petersburg; but her stay in Russia will be limited to eleven weeks. She leaves Paris during the second week in November.

MADAME NILSSON has returned to Paris from her successful tour in Sweden, &c., and will next visit Holland, under the direction of Herr Ullmann. Her operatic performances in Vienna will be in January next, and she will sing in German at the Imperial Opera-house in the 'Huguenots,' 'Lohengrin,' 'Faust,' 'Mignon,' and 'Hamlet.'

THE DEATH of Mr. George Cooper has caused regret in the musical circles. He was not a composer, but he took great interest in art matters, and was a regular attendant at the chief concerts where first-class music was performed. He was, first, organist at St. Benet, Paul's Wharf; he succeeded his father as sub-organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, and was organist and music-teacher also at Christ's Hospital (the Bluecoat School); he also had the organ at St. Sepulchre's church, and was one of the organists at the Chapel Royal, four posts now vacant.

PROF. ELLA has just returned to town, after paying a visit to Madame Essipoff and her husband, M. Leschetizky, at Baden-Baden. The lady leaves Havre, on the 26th, for her tour in the United States, for which she is guaranteed 5,000/- for six months: besides which, all her expenses and those of a companion are paid. Operas are given once a week at Baden, under the direction of Herr Dessooff, Musical Director of Carlsruhe. Amongst the visitors at Baden were Herr Brahms, Signor Sivori, Herr Hermann, the Frankfort violinist; Herr Becker, with his Florentine quartet, &c. Signor Papini is making a tour in Switzerland, and gave a concert last week in Lausanne.

A PARIS Correspondent writes on the 5th inst.:—"I went to hear the 'Prophète,' in the parterre stalls, nine francs, places quite equal to our stalls, but the heat much greater. The ventilation of the Grand Opera-house cannot be good. Madame Rosine Bloch was Fides, who is evidently an experienced actress; Madlle. F. Madier, who was Berthe, is but second-rate; M. Sylva, Jean de Leyde, has a very full robust tenor voice, partaking of the baritone *timbre*, but he has not the defect of the tremolo, and sings a times finely. The *mise en scène* was simply perfect, far beyond any spectacle I have ever seen in London. The arrangement of the Coronation Scene was admirable; the

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forest scene, with the snow on the trees, presented quite a Dutch winter landscape; the skating scene was very picturesque, and the skaters very skilful. There was often a great noise behind the scenes, and the French audiences have a bad habit of interrupting the singing, just before the last notes, by applause. I went to see 'La Belle Hélène' at the Variétés, with Madame Judic in the title-part, M. Dupuis, Paris, but Offenbach's music was very badly done, especially by the tenor, who was awful. Madame Galli-Marié is the attraction in the 'Piccolino,' of M. Sardou and M. Guiraud. 'La Princesse de Trébizonde' fills the Bouffes Parisiens. At the Folies Dramatiques, M. Hervé's 'Petit Faust' is amusing the Parisians. It will be new to Mr. Planche, that the libretto of Weber's 'Oberon,' now given at the Lyrique, is by MM. Nuitter, De Beaumont, and Chazot, who scorn the avowal that it is 'adapted from the English.'

A DISTINGUISHED German artist writes to us from Vienna on the 3rd inst.:—'Many persons of my acquaintance are not yet quite recovered from their moral and physical sufferings at the Bayreuth Festspiele. You will see that a complete reaction will take place very shortly, and that Herr Wagner, with all his absurdities, will be forgotten soon. The only advantage gained from his music in the 'Nibelungen' is, that it is not possible for other directors to mount the work, and the composer turns this fact to account by pretending that he fears there can be no efficient execution as at Bayreuth; this may be possibly a manoeuvre on his part to secure a repetition of the series next year, if visitors could be induced in sufficient numbers to go to his Opernhaus. It is doubted whether the director of our theatre, Herr Jauner, will produce the 'Walküre' without considerable curtailments, and without an alteration in the story, but Wagner is not very easy to deal with; he has a will of his own, and so have the Viennese audiences, who showed it strongly when the attempt was made to introduce the composer's mythological monstrosities in the 'Tannhäuser.'

THERE is good reason to disbelieve the statement that the 'Ring des Nibelungen' will be repeated next year at Bayreuth. We learn on good authority that the Municipality of the town (which is stated to have benefited to the extent of 80,000£. by the recent series of performances) has offered to pay the deficit of 3,000£., provided the Opernhaus be devoted in 1877 to six representations of operas, namely, the 'Fidelio' of Beethoven, 'Olympia' of Spontini, 'Jessonda' of Spohr, 'Oberon' of Weber, 'Don Juan' of Mozart, and 'Tannhäuser' of Herr Wagner, the price of admission to the series to be 5£. per stall. The ensemble of each work is to be on the same scale as at the late Festspiele, under the baton of Herr Richter, of the Vienna Imperial Opera-house.

MR. GOSCHEN, in his visit to Egypt, will have an opportunity of witnessing the Khedive's devotion to the lyric drama, as the Italian opera season is to take place, despite all sinister rumours that it had been abandoned. The musical director and conductor will be, as before, Signor Bottesini, the famed double-bass player; the prime donne will be Signore Varesi, Duval, Van der Müller, Persiny, and Barlani-Dini; the tenors and basses, Signori Fancelli, Merly, Patierno, Verger, Pinto, and Medini.

HERR THEODORE THOMAS begins his tenth session of Symphony Concerts, in New York, on the 28th inst., with a chorus of selected voices. These performances have done much to improve public taste in America and promote a liking for high-class orchestral works. Herr Thomas was born in Hanover in 1835, and won distinction as a boy-violinist. He went to New York in 1845, and as first violin accompanied Sontag (the Countess Rossi), Madame Jenny Lind-Goldschmidt, Grisi, and Mario during their American tours. He first established quartet soirees for the execution of classical chamber compositions, and was also conductor both of Italian and German operas; after which, in 1865, he started the Symphony Concerts, in the programmes of

which he anticipated our London instrumental associations in the introduction of new works. After the winter series, he gave the Summer Night Concerts, still preserving the high character of the selections. He directed the first performance of Herr Wagner's Inauguration March for the Philadelphia Festival, for which the composer was paid 5,000 dollars by the Women's Centennial Association. Mr. Neuendorff, at the Sunday Concerts in Steinway Hall for charitable institutions, will introduce next month excerpts from 'Der Ring des Nibelungen,' executed by sixty instrumentalists and the chorus of the New Yorker 'Saengerunde.' The same director will produce, at the Academy of Music, Herr Wagner's 'Fliedende Holländer,' with Fräulein Papenheim as Senta. The instrumental portions of the 'Nibelungen' will also be given by the New York Philharmonic Society.

HERR WAGNER has visited Venice on his way to Bologna, where his opera, 'Rienzi,' will be produced in Italy for the first time; he will afterwards go to Naples and Rome, and will pass the winter at Sorrento.

The death of Henry Bertini, at Meylan, near Grenoble, is announced. He was born in London of French parents, October 28, 1798, and won fame at an early age as pianist. He was the composer of the well-known book of Studies for the Pianoforte, besides chamber compositions, quartets, sextets, a nonetto, a trio, preludes, nocturnes, fantasias, variations, &c.

The new opera, 'Die Folkunger,' by Herr Kretschmer, has been successfully produced at the Imperial Opera-house in Vienna.

DRAMA

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. B. Chatterton. Every Evening at 7. 'THE BEAUTIFUL DAME' at 45. 'RICHARD III.' at 45. 'PARRY'S SISTER' at 45. Messrs. H. Sinclair, J. F. Cathcart, C. Vand-hoff, H. Russell, F. Tyers, H. M. Clifford, Douglas, H. Evans, G. R. Irelan, D. Percy Bell, C. H. Fenton, James Johnstone, R. Dolman, J. B. Johnson, Master Grattan; Mrs. Hermann Verlin, Madame Fanny Huddart, Misses Dorothea and Grattan. 'THE STORM FRIEND'—Prices from 1s. to 4s. Doors open at 6.30, commence at 7. Box-Office open from Ten till Five daily.

Dramatic Gossip.

A TWO-ACT comedietta, taken from the French, and entitled 'Mother Carey's Chickens,' has been produced at the Criterion Theatre. It is a slight piece, with a strong resemblance to previous works, and is whimsically interpreted by Mr. John Clarke, Mr. Righton, Miss Hathaway, and Miss Eastlake. Its intrigue is founded on the difficulties of a mother with a large assortment of marriageable daughters, for whom she is required to find husbands.

THE St. James's will open to-night, under the management of Mrs. John Wood, with a comedy, entitled 'Three Millions of Money'; and the Charing Cross (re-christened the Folly) on Monday, under Mr. Henderson, with the burlesque of 'Blue Beard.' This will leave one West-end theatre only, the Royalty, with closed doors.

MR. WILLS's play of 'Nell Gwyn' will shortly be produced by Miss Fowler at the Royalty Theatre.

A NEW drama, entitled 'The Sole Survivor: a Tale of the Goodwin Sands,' has been produced at the Grecian, with Mr. G. Conquest in the part of a comic villain.

MADAME JUDIC has re-appeared at the Variétés in 'La Belle Hélène.'

'COQ-HARDY,' a seven-act drama of M. Ponpart-Davy, has obtained at the Porte-Saint-Martin a success due partly to the acting of M. Dumaine and Madame Dica-Petit. It is a romantic drama of an old-fashioned stamp. Coq-Hardy is the name assumed by a Breton duke, who, having been condemned to death for his part in a conspiracy, has escaped from prison, and joined the army as a private soldier. His bravery and resolution bring him into notice; he becomes mixed up in politics, and takes an active part in the troubles of the Fronde. After adventures enough

to satisfy a D'Artagnan, he succeeds in righting at the same time domestic affairs and the affairs of the nation. The drama is spirited.

SEPTEMBER 20th was the 100th anniversary of the first performance of 'Hamlet' in German, on the stage of a German theatre. It was then played at Hamburg for the first time. To celebrate the event, the play was given at Hamburg on the 20th of last month.

'ANDRETE,' a one-act comedy of M. Charles de Courcy, has been given at the Gymnase Dramatique.

'QUEEN MARY' has been played at New York. The *Nation* says of the play:—'As now arranged for the stage, it seems to be less un-Tennysonian than we anticipated, the knife having hacked not only at the more unmanageable lines of the laureate, but also, with some gleams of conscience, at the interpolations of the adapter. The effect of hearing Tennyson upon the stage is quite peculiar; each word seems a necessity, and touches the ear with a distinctness of its own, the whole drama seeming the first ever played in really choice eclectic English. The chiselled phrases follow each other in a series of clear sculptural effects, touching the sense with regularity and measure, and affecting us not so much like anything whatever our dramatic repertory possesses, as like some piece of perfect word-joinery of Ponsard's or Feuillet's in French. The impersonator, again, comprehended her part. It is not difficult to believe that Queen Mary in England, as administered by Miss Bateman, should have been cooling and medicinal; we are familiarized with the limitations of that very Protestant-looking young person's art, and could forgive her for not looking much like a daughter of Holy Church or of a Spanish woman. Miss Dargom, who illustrates Queen Mary for us, is a lady of the style of Mdile Favart, now classical and now fiery, and she made of her part an unquestionable success.'

MISCELLANEA

Bulgarian Horrors.—No one has thought of pointing out how the outrage which has given its distinctive character to the Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria, and the accounts of which in the columns of the *Daily News* have so excited the passionate horror of Englishmen, derived its name from the Bulgarians themselves. This is the etymology of the word [*v. Gibbon and Littré*], as is seen at once in the form in which it was first used in England, during the trial of Lord Castlehaven. This is a fact which ought not to be overlooked in the present agitation against the Turks. We need go no further than Voltaire's 'Candide' to learn that the Bulgarians are still the same people that they were when they first appeared in Europe from beyond the Volga, a thousand years before the fall of Adrianople and Constantinople to the Turks. Gibbon's account of the Slavonians (ch. xlii.) applies equally well to the Russians and Servians of our day. "Whatever praise the boldness of the Slavonians may deserve, it is sullied by the wanton and deliberate cruelty which they are accused of executing on their prisoners. Without distinction of rank, age, or sex" [compare Mr. Eugene Schuyler's 'Turkistan'], "the captives were impaled, or flayed alive, or suspended between four posts, and beaten with clubs till they expired, or enclosed in some spacious building, and left to perish in the flames, with the spoil and cattle which might impede the march of these savage victors."

GEORGE BIRDWOOD.

John Neal.—It is never too late to lay a laurel-leaf upon the tomb. On the 20th of June last, at the ripe age of eighty-three, John Neal, one of the most noteworthy of American *littérateurs*, passed away. For sixty years the indefatigable producer of a series of more or less popular works in prose and verse, the editor of some, and the contributor to many, of the leading periodicals of England and the United States, and the personal acquaintance of several of the best-known *littérateurs* of both

nations, John Neal, although he may have outlived most of his early literary friendships and much of his own fame, yet deserves some passing recognition of his completed career. His whole life was a course of chivalrous enterprises. He came to London in order to nullify the sneer of "Who ever reads an American book?" and contrived to arouse the attention of the British public by his papers on American subjects, when such things were new to Europe. He would seem to have forsaken England, because his articles were not published as he wrote them. He returned to America in 1827, intending to settle in New York; but hearing that the citizens of his native town, Portland, in Maine, would not permit him to stay there, there, with his characteristic spirit, he went and started a newspaper—the *Yankee*. His courage in the advocacy of unpopular truths rendered him anything but agreeable to his contemporary native press, whilst the candour of his criticisms created for him a host of unknown and, generally, anonymous assailants; but he lived to see all the ephemeral cliques, cabals, and reputations which he had so fiercely attacked moulder into oblivion. One of his bravest acts was to decline a challenge sent him by Edward C. Pinckney, one of America's best versifiers, and son of one of her best orators. The youthful midshipman accused Neal of cowardice; but the man's antecedents were too well known, and his skill as a fencer, boxer, and athlete too noted, for any one to discredit his courage. Up to the last his bravery and his intellect both retained their pristine vigour. Of the former I have only report to rely upon, but of the latter I judge by personal correspondence. Some day, when America has founded a literature, she will have to assign a niche to John Neal, as one of her most honourable pioneers.

I.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—G. M. F.—H. C.—D. R. W.—G. L. A.—M. W.—G. S. L.—C. M. C.—C. M. S.—E. M.—received.

G. P.—We cannot undertake to answer such questions.

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